

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman

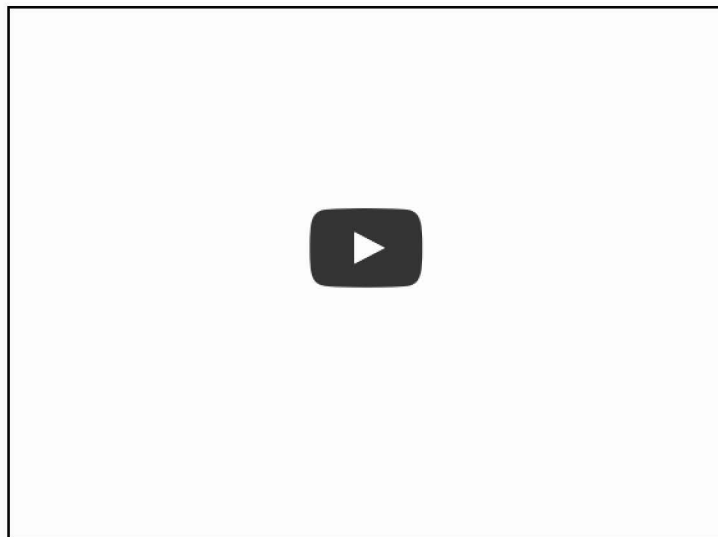


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A.G. Schneiderman & NYPD Commissioner Bratton Announce Takedown Of Worldwide KHAT Trafficking Ring

Seventeen Indicted For Funneling Several Tons Of Khat Across Four Continents, Distributing The Drug Across New York And Other States

Schneiderman And Bratton: Today's Indictment Is The Result Of Our Relentless Fight Against Organized Drug Distribution Rings



NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman and New York City Police Department (NYPD) Commissioner William J. Bratton today announced the indictment of 17 members of a criminal drug ring who allegedly flooded New York City, as well as other parts of New York State and parts of Massachusetts and Ohio, with several tons of khat, a plant containing controlled substances similar to amphetamines. The 215-count indictment unsealed in Brooklyn Supreme Court charges that the defendants obtained khat from Yemen, Kenya and Ethiopia; shipped it to the United States through countries including the United Kingdom, China, Holland and Belgium; and trafficked it around New York City and several other New York counties, as well as Massachusetts and Ohio. The ring then laundered the proceeds through operations in Minnesota and wired the money to various locations abroad, including Dubai and England.

“Khat is a dangerous and illegal drug with worldwide reach. As a result of this international takedown, a sophisticated operation accused of bringing drugs into the United States and sending the profits overseas has been shut down,” said **Attorney General Schneiderman**. “Trafficking often funds other criminal activity. Traffickers who threaten our communities and inflict untold harm on countless families will be brought to justice.”

“Illegal drugs can find their way into our city from any corner of the world via organized criminal networks,” **NYPD Commissioner Bratton** said. “Through the far-reaching capabilities of our joint law enforcement partners these criminals can be tracked down and brought to justice wherever they are located, as evidenced in today’s indictments by the New York State Attorney General’s office.”

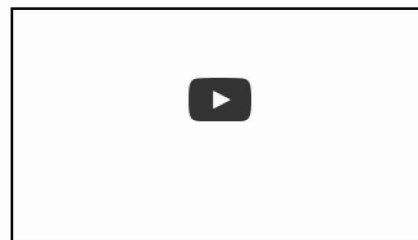
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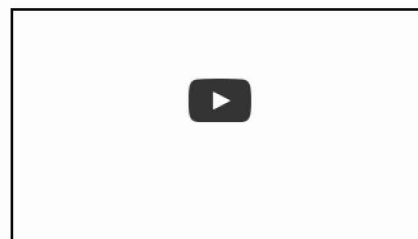
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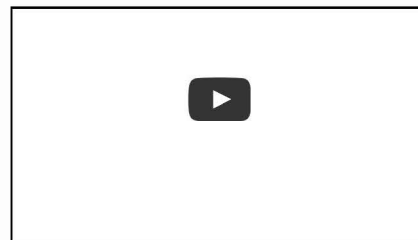
A.G. Schneiderman & NYPD Commissioner Bratton Announce Takedown Of Worldwide KHAT Trafficking Ring



A.G. Schneiderman Announces Fraud Charges Against Barclays In Connection With Marketing And Operation Of Its Dark Pool



A.G. Schneiderman And D.A. Gascón Announce That Google And Microsoft Will Include A Smartphone Kill Switch In Next Operating Systems



A.G. Schneiderman Announces InVEST Partnership To Provide Bulletproof Vests To NYS Police

Khat is a plant cultivated largely in Kenya and Ethiopia. Among its active ingredients are cathinone, a stimulant classified as a Schedule I controlled substance under the New York State Public Health Law, and cathine, which is classified as a Schedule IV controlled substance. Users of khat chew the leaves and stems of the plant and swallow the juice, which is most potent when it is fresh. Khat traffickers, therefore, must operate efficiently to transport khat from Africa, where it is cultivated, to users in the United States and elsewhere. Khat became illegal in the United Kingdom on Tuesday.

As part of the investigation, state and local law enforcement agents led by the New York State Attorney General's Organized Crime Task Force (OCTF) and the NYPD's Intelligence Division conducted a nearly year-long investigation. The indictment alleges that England-based defendant Y adeta Bekri, known to his co-conspirators as "Murad," systematically shipped large quantities of khat to his U.S.-based "managers," Bayan Yusuf and Ahmed Adem, through multiple U.P.S. stores located in Manhattan. Yusuf and Adem, both of Rochester, NY, would then allegedly deliver the khat to their distributors and direct customers based in Brooklyn, Rochester and Buffalo, as well as Everett, Mass.

Surveillance conducted as part of the investigation revealed that, in each city, the defendants would use various buildings to store large quantities of khat until they were able to distribute the drugs. For example, two of the defendants – Mustafa Sadeq Ali and Sadeq Hassan Ali – were observed on several occasions via electronic surveillance bringing multiple boxes of khat (containing approximately 25 pounds per box) into the Islamic Society of Flatbush on Nostrand Avenue in Brooklyn, which was adjacent to the apartment they shared. Defendants were also repeatedly observed at storage rental facilities including CubeSmart and Storage Deluxe locations in both Brooklyn and Queens.

At Bekri's direction, Yusuf and Adem allegedly transported the proceeds of these illegal sales by car to Bekri's fiancée and co-conspirator Ibsitu Hashi in Minnesota who, in turn, sent the money back to Bekri via Dubai and other countries.

The New York State Police, ICE Homeland Security Investigations, and United States Customs and Border Protection all assisted in the investigation.

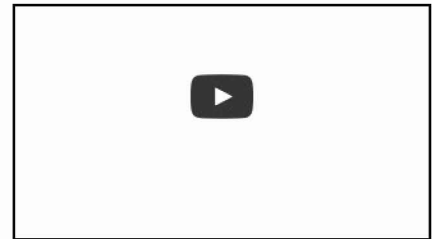
"ICE Homeland Security Investigations and U.S. Customs and Border Protection dedicate significant resources to identify vulnerabilities in trade and travel systems like those exploited by the criminal syndicate dismantled today," **James T. Hayes Jr., special agent in charge of HSI New York**, said. "HSI is committed to leveraging partnerships across all levels of law enforcement to preserve America's national security."

"We are proud to have partnered with the New York State Attorney General's Office in bringing to justice those involved in this criminal organization," said **Robert E. Perez, Director, New York Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)**. "CBP remains ever vigilant at our ports of entry to ensure the security and safety of our nation."

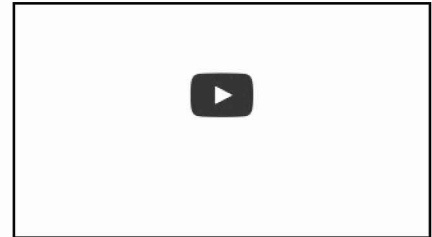
Today's indictment charges 17 co-conspirators with crimes including Operating as a Major Trafficker and various counts of Criminal Sale and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, Money Laundering and Conspiracy to commit those crimes. The Operating as a Major Trafficker statute (§220.77(1) of the Penal Law of the State of New York), authored by Attorney General Schneiderman, went into effect in November 2009 as part of changes to the Rockefeller-era drug laws and is the only felony narcotics charge in the state that carries a possible life sentence.

The defendants charged today are:

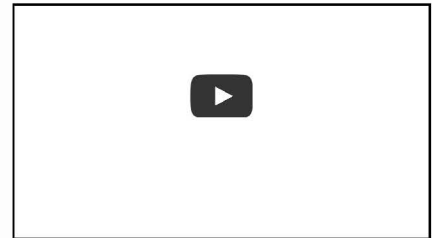
- Yadeta Bekri (a.k.a. "Murad"), 23, of England
- Mustafa Sadeq Ali, 21, of Brooklyn
- Sadeq Hassan Ali, 46, of Brooklyn
- Noman Saleh Almoftahi, 21, of Brooklyn
- Ahmed Khader Sulaiman, 25, of Brooklyn
- Al Khader Sulaiman, 29, of Brooklyn
- Wail Seidi, 21, of Queens
- Nabil Seidi, 35, of Queens
- Mohamed Seidi, 26, of Queens



A.G. Schneiderman Busts International Cocaine Pipeline In "Operation Snowfall"



NYPD Partners With COP Program To Combat Heroin Epidemic



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Abubaker Seidi, 39, of Queens
Ali Saleh, 39, of Rochester
Mohamed Mohamed, 54, of Rochester
Bayan Yusuf, 31, of Rochester
Rumiya Osman, 30, of Rochester
Ahmed Adem, 31, of Rochester
Malyun Ibrahim, 49, of Everett, Mass.
Ibsitu Hashi, 34, of Blaine, Minn.

The investigation was directed by OCTF Investigator Brian Fleming and Supervising Investigator Arthur Schwartz, OCTF Deputy Chief Christopher Vasta and Investigations Bureau Chief Dominick Zarrella in the Attorney General's office, and by NYPD Detective Milton Lopez, Sergeant Scott Mackay and Lieutenant Joseph Sullivan of the Intelligence Division and Deputy Inspector Paul Mauro. The case is being prosecuted by OCTF Deputy Bureau Chief Tarek Rahman, with the assistance of OCTF Analyst Nicole Accurso and Deputy Attorney General Peri Alyse Kadanoff. The Executive Deputy Attorney General for Criminal Justice is Kelly Donovan.

The charges against the defendants are accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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