



U. S. Department of Justice

Thomas G. Walker  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**WEDNESDAY - September 19, 2011**

**NIJIM CONVICTED OF CONTRABAND CIGARETTE TRAFFICKING**

**GREENVILLE** - United States Attorney Thomas G. Walker announced that in federal court Thursday, a jury convicted OMAR M. NIJIM, 24, of 275 93<sup>rd</sup> Street, Brooklyn, New York, of one count of Conspiracy to Traffic in Contraband Cigarettes, in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Sections 371 and 2342(a).

The evidence showed that NIJIM traveled from New York to a rest area in Linden, New Jersey on two separate occasions to purchase contraband cigarettes from ATF agents acting in an undercover capacity. On December 1, 2009, conspirators paid undercover agents \$248,280 for 9,540 cartons of contraband cigarettes. On January 13, 2010, conspirators paid \$180,000 for 9,000 cartons of contraband cigarettes. Contraband cigarettes means a quantity in excess of 10,000 cigarettes, which bear no evidence of the payment of State or local cigarettes taxes in the State where they are found. The investigation revealed that the conspirators were obtaining cases of cigarettes from North Carolina, a lower state tax state, and traveling to New York and New Jersey to sell the cigarettes, where the state and local taxes are much higher. The evidence also showed that NIJIM was previously convicted of possession of contraband cigarettes in Suffolk County, New York, on April 14, 2010.

Senior United States District Judge Malcolm J. Howard scheduled

sentencing for December 5, 2011 in Greenville. Investigation of this case was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, National Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement (NC ALE), Wake County Sheriff's Department, Raleigh Police Department, Zebulon Police Department, Rocky Mount Police Department, and New Jersey Treasury Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Eric Evenson represented the government.

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