



**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI**

July 28, 2005

For Immediate Release

**AREA MAN IS SENTENCED TO 38 YEARS IN PRISON  
AFTER BEING CONVICTED ON MULTIPLE CHARGES  
IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARSON AND ATTEMPTED  
ARSON OF FOUR GROCERY STORES TO COLLECT  
INSURANCE PROCEEDS**

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI: One of the four area men who were convicted in May of multiple charges in connection with the arson and attempted arson of four grocery stores and another business to collect over \$3.5 million in insurance proceeds has been sentenced to 38 years in prison, United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway, announced today.

Hanaway commended the work on the case by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Bomb and Arson Squad, the Postal Inspection Service; and Assistant United States Attorneys John Ware and Matthew Drake who are handling the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

**WALID IHMOUD**, a/k/a Wally, 54, of the 7800 block of Chalmette Drive, St. Louis, 63042, was sentenced this morning to 457 months in prison, and ordered to pay restitution of over \$1 million.

Ihmoud appeared this morning before Senior United States District Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh.

On May 4, four defendants were convicted of conspiracy to commit arson; arson; attempted arson; and mail fraud.

Co-defendants **CHARLES D'ARY**, a/k/a Chuck, 55, of Venice, Illinois, and **MOHAMMAD ALMASSRI**, a/k/a Mike, 40, of the 8300 block of North Broadway, St. Louis, 63147, are scheduled for sentencing Friday, July 29; and **ZEYAD ABDELJABBAR**, a/k/a Steve, 39, of Woods Hill Drive, Town & Country, 63017, awaits sentencing on Thursday, August 11, 2005.

According to testimony presented at trial, between August 2002 and the present, Abdeljabbar, Ihmoud, D'Ary, and Almassri participated in a conspiracy to destroy four businesses owned by Abdeljabbar and one business owned by Ihmoud to collect the insurance money. The fires occurred at St. Louis Supermarkets located at 8350 North Broadway; 4331 Natural Bridge in St. Louis and 8352 Frost in St. Louis County; and Quality Bargains, Inc. located at 8350 North Broadway, St. Louis and owned by Walid Ihmoud. On each occasion the defendants filed insurance claims on the damaged or destroyed businesses. The amount of money the defendants attempted to collect from various insurance carriers as a result of the fires is more than \$3.5million. The defendants also attempted to set fire to St. Louis Supermarkets on 2700 S. Grand and again at 8350 North Broadway.