



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**January 12, 2006**

**CONTACT PERSON:**

**SUSAN W. BROOKS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**LOUISVILLE MAN CONVICTED OF FEDERAL FELONY  
FOR POSSESSION OF UNTAXED CIGARETTES**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that AHMED EL MOCTAR, 33, Louisville, Kentucky, was sentenced to 2 years probation by U.S. District Judge David F. Hamilton following his guilty plea to knowingly possessing contraband cigarettes. This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives and the Indiana Department of Revenue.

EL MOCTAR owned and operated Jreif Sales, LLC, a retail Marathon gas station and convenience store located at 523 Vincennes, New Albany, Indiana. In August 2004, law enforcement officers seized approximately 76,000 cigarettes from Jreif that did not bear Indiana tax stamps. Under Indiana law, all packages of cigarettes sold in Indiana must bear an Indiana Revenue Tax Stamp. Kentucky has similar laws requiring proof of payment of

revenue taxes for cigarettes. At the time of the offense, the Indiana cigarette excise tax was higher than the Kentucky cigarette excise tax.

According to Assistant United States Attorney James P. Hanlon, who prosecuted the case for the government, EL MOCTAR was also ordered to forfeit the contraband cigarettes and pay restitution to the Indiana Department of Revenue in the amount of \$2,060.

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