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BOSNIAN NATIONAL SENTENCED TO OVER 17 ½ YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR ARMORED CAR ROBBERY

PHOENIX – Adnan Alisic, 28, of Phoenix and a Bosnian national, was sentenced on March 31, 2008 to 211 months prison (17 years, 7 months) by U.S. District Judge David G. Campbell. Alisic was convicted by a federal jury on November 28, 2007 of Conspiracy to Commit Interference with Commerce by Threats, Violence and Robbery; Interference with Commerce by Threats, Violence and Robbery and Use of a Firearm in a Crime of Violence.

On July 21, 2006, Alisic and three other men joined a conspiracy and executed a robbery of an armored car which was off-loading money at Casino Arizona on the Salt River Indian Reservation. Alisic and one of his co-defendants, Ismar Kabaklic, approached the armored car drivers as they were off-loading money. Kabaklic was armed with a simulated AK-47 assault rifle and Alisic sprayed the armored car guard with pepper spray.

The men stole over \$700,000 from the armored car and sped away in their vehicle. The plan the men had devised included an elaborate escape plan which involved them entering the city sewer system through a manhole cover. While in the sewer, the men planned to ride an ATV in the sewer to an exit manhole. However, the men were unable to get the manhole cover open, thus allowing the police to catch up with them. A high-speed chase ensued.

When the get-away van came to a stop, Alisic fled on foot and escaped. Kabaklic stopped to try to get the bags of money and was arrested by police officers. Further investigation revealed that at least two other men were involved in the planning of the robbery and the escape. Kabaklic confessed to his involvement and provided the names of the remaining conspirators. Within the same day, Alisic was arrested and confessed to his involvement.

At trial, Alisic admitted that he helped plan the robbery but only because he was in debt to a loan shark named "Danny." "Danny's" assistant, who was alleged to be the "muscle" in the loan shark organization, was named "Tony." Alisic testified that he, "Tony" and the other co-defendants planned the robbery. Alisic testified that it was "Tony," not Alisic, who was present during the robbery. "Tony" was committing the robbery so that Alisic could pay back his debt to "Danny." Alisic was unable to give any identifying information regarding "Danny" or "Tony." This testimony was presented as a duress defense and the jury ultimately rejected it.

Other conspirators, also Bosnian nationals, included Kabaklic who pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 6 ½ years on March 24, 2008; Bakir Mujkic who helped plan the robbery and was sentenced to two years in prison on March 10, 2008; and Daniel Mujkic, who pleaded guilty to the robbery and is scheduled to be sentenced on April 28, 2008.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Salt River Police Department and Scottsdale Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Sharon Sexton and Mark Brnovich, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Ariz.

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