



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**U.S. ANNOUNCES GUILTY PLEA IN LARGEST
IDENTITY THEFT CASE IN NATION'S HISTORY**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that PHILIP A. CUMMINGS pled guilty in Manhattan federal court today in a massive scheme to steal the identities of up to 30,000 people. CUMMINGS is the lead defendant in the largest identity theft case known to U.S. authorities. CUMMINGS was scheduled to go on trial on November 3, 2004, before United States District Judge GEORGE B. DANIELS.

CUMMINGS pled guilty to one count of conspiracy, one count of wire fraud and one count of fraud in connection with identification documents. CUMMINGS faces a combined maximum sentence of 50 years' imprisonment on the three counts to which he pled. As part of his guilty plea, CUMMINGS also agreed to forfeit any proceeds of the scheme. CUMMINGS is scheduled to be sentenced on January 11, 2004, at 9:45 a.m.

According to the Indictment, CUMMINGS previously worked as a help desk employee at Telecommunications Data, Inc. ("TCI"), a technology company that provided its customers with computerized

access to the three commercial credit history bureaus - Equifax, Experian and TransUnion credit bureaus. As a help desk employee, CUMMINGS had access to confidential passwords and subscriber codes pertaining to TCI customers who used TCI software to download consumer credit histories from the credit bureaus in connection with their legitimate business needs. Together with co-conspirator Linus Baptiste, CUMMINGS accessed the credit bureaus and downloaded more than 30,000 consumer credit histories from about early 2000 through about October 2002.

The Indictment alleges that Baptiste then would supply the stolen credit reports to a number of individuals, including co-defendant Eniete Ukpogon who, in turn, would use the credit reports to obtain, among other things, credit cards in the names of the various individuals listed in the reports. These individuals then would use the credit cards to purchase merchandise, such as computers and electronic equipment, which they then would resell to other co-conspirators, including co-defendant Ahmet Ulutas.

Trial against defendants Ukpogon and Ulutas is scheduled to commence on November 3, 2004.

Mr. KELLEY praised the investigative efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Postal Inspection Service and thanked the United States Secret Service for its assistance in the investigation. Mr. KELLEY also stated that the investigation is continuing.

PHILIP A. CUMMINGS, 34, lives in Cartersville, Georgia.

Assistant United States Attorneys MARCUS A. ASNER and
BRIAN R. MICHAEL are in charge of the prosecution.

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