



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

QUIK STOP OWNERS CONVICTED OF CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE METH INGREDIENTS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that the owners of two local convenience stores were convicted by a federal jury today of conspiring to distribute large quantities of an ingredient used to manufacture methamphetamine.

Rady I. Sdoulam, 32, of Kansas City, Mo., and **Eiad M. Musallet**, 26, of Olathe, Kan., were each found guilty of conspiring to distribute pseudoephedrine, having reasonable cause to believe that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine. **Sdoulam** and **Musallet** were also each found guilty on separate counts of distributing pseudoephedrine to an undercover officer, believing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

Following the trial of **Sdoulam** and **Musallet**, Graves said, the jury in U.S. District Court in Kansas City deliberated about six hours before returning the guilty verdicts to U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner, ending a trial that began May 12, 2003.

Sdoulam and **Musallet** operated two convenience stores: the Quik Stop Convenience Store located at 4039 Metropolitan Avenue in Kansas City, Kan., and the Quik Stop Convenience Store located at 5620 Longview Road in Grandview, Mo. **Sdoulam** and **Musallet** are of Palestinian descent and have been in the United States for several years. **Musallet** is a naturalized citizen of the United States.

According to Graves, the defendants were involved for several months in a continuing conspiracy to distribute large quantities of stolen pseudoephedrine tablets, from which **Musallet** and **Sdoulam** gained substantial profits.

“They worked together at the convenience stores they operated in Grandview and in Kansas City, Kan.,” Graves said. “They commissioned shoplifters to provide them with large

quantities of free, stolen over-the-counter cold medicine containing pseudoephedrine. Then **Sdoulam** and **Musallet** sold large quantities of these products to local meth cooks and to undercover officers they believed were meth cooks.

“By cutting off this black market supply line to area meth cooks, law enforcement officers reduced the amount of meth flowing into the community.”

A cooperating witness and an undercover police officer, posing as a meth cook, purchased hundreds of boxes – containing thousands of pseudoephedrine tablets – from **Sdoulam** and **Musallet** between August 2001, and April 2002. In conversations recorded during some of these purchases, Graves said, the undercover officer told **Sdoulam** and **Musallet** that he was using the tablets to make meth.

In addition to the conspiracy charge, **Musallet** was also found guilty of distributing pseudoephedrine on Aug. 1, 2001. An undercover officer of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation purchased 82 boxes of pseudoephedrine tablets – Good Sense brand nasal decongestant tablets – from **Musallet** at the Grandview Quik Stop.

In addition to the conspiracy charge, **Sdoulam** was also found guilty of distributing pseudoephedrine to an undercover officer on March 21, 2001. **Sdoulam** met the undercover officer in the parking lot of the Home Depot store in Independence, where he sold the officer – whom he believed to be a meth cook – 36 boxes containing 1,440 pills.

Sdoulam and **Musallet** were among four defendants charged in a federal indictment returned by the grand jury on May 29, 2002. Co-defendant **Nancy E. Queen**, 38, of Prairie Village, Kan., has pleaded guilty to her role in the conspiracy and testified during the trial.

Queen admitted that she was a shoplifter among those supplying stolen pseudoephedrine, as well as stolen cigarettes, to the Quik Stop stores.

According to Graves, police officers from the Overland Park, Kan., Police Department were dispatched to the Target Superstore at 12200 Blue Valley Parkway in Overland Park, Kan., regarding shoplifting incident on the evening of Dec. 26, 2001. **Nancy Queen** had been detained after trying to shoplift 13 boxes of pseudoephedrine tablets. A police officer also found 46 boxes of various pseudoephedrine products in **Queen's** vehicle, which was in the parking lot.

Queen testified that she had been stealing cigarettes and pseudoephedrine and selling them to **Musallet**. **Queen** sold between 100 to 150 boxes per week of pseudoephedrine cold tablets to **Musallet** over a three-month period.

That federal indictment also included a forfeiture count that requires **Sdoulam** to forfeit to the United States a 1994 Ford min-van that was used in the commission of the conspiracy.

As a result of today's conviction, **Sdoulam** and **Musallet** could each be subject to a sentence of up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$500,000. Their

sentences will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the completion of presentence investigations by the U.S. Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles E. Ambrose, Jr. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with assistance from the Kansas City, Kan., Police Department, the Bonner Springs, Kan., Police Department, and the Johnson County, Kan. Sheriff's Office, as well as the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow