



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

Ohio Investigative Unit • Glenn Taylor, Executive Director
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Food Stamp Investigation Nets Federal Fugitive **- OIU agents learned suspect was federal fugitive during course of investigation -**

(COLUMBUS) – A federal fugitive being sought by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials was recently apprehended in Lucas County as a result of a food stamp fraud investigation completed by the Ohio Investigative Unit's (OIU) Toledo District Office.

Rami M. Ahmed, 21, was arrested Jan. 29 at Pic & Go Market, Inc., 810 Galena Street, Toledo. Ahmed, who worked at the business as a store clerk, has been charged with Illegal use of Food Stamps and Telecommunications Fraud, in addition to pending federal charges.

It was during the course of OIU's food stamp fraud investigation that it was determined that the suspect was a federal fugitive being sought by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials. Ahmed was located and arrested thanks in part to OIU's analytical support in the Strategic Analysis & Information Center (SAIC), located within the Ohio Homeland Security division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety

Another store clerk, Emad Dami, 27, was charged on Dec. 28, 2009 with Illegal use of Food Stamps and Telecommunications Fraud.

"Food stamp fraud is a crime that impacts those individuals and families who need assistance the most," said OIU Executive Director Glenn Taylor. "We appreciate the quick action and positive working relationship with federal authorities from the U.S. Border Patrol and ICE that helped us close this case, resulting in the successful apprehension of a fugitive."

The Pic & Go Market was cited on four counts each of Illegal Use of an EBT card and Trafficking in EBT. The market was also cited on one count of Illegal Possession of EBT.

Individuals who are eligible for food stamps may only purchase breads and cereals; fruits and vegetables; meats, fish and poultry; and dairy products from authorized retailers. Beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes or tobacco, and non-food items are not eligible for purchase.

Individuals who believe food stamp fraud is being committed are encouraged to contact the Ohio Investigative Unit toll-free at 1-877-4MINORS. All complaints will remain anonymous.

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The Ohio Investigative Unit is a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Agents are sworn peace officers who enforce the state's liquor and tobacco laws, as well as food stamp fraud.