



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Maryland Woman Pleads Guilty to Felony For False Personation of a United States Citizen**

WASHINGTON - Johanna F. Fapohunda, also known as Johanna F. Thompson, 37, pled guilty today to a felony charge of false personation of a United States citizen, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Fapohunda, of Bowie, Md., had falsely represented that she was a U.S. citizen in applying for a position in 2006 with the District of Columbia government. She pled guilty today before Magistrate Judge Deborah A. Robinson in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. She is to be sentenced May 4, 2011 by Judge Ellen S. Huvelle. The charge carries a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a fine.

According to the government's evidence, the defendant was born in the Netherlands and is a citizen of Nigeria. She entered the United States in 2000 to attend school, and stayed in the country thereafter on a series of religious worker or student visas. From June 2006 to August 2006, however, she applied for a job as a Senior Budget Analyst with the District of Columbia Government. As part of her application, Fapohunda falsely represented that she was a United States citizen and was authorized to work. She subsequently was hired for the position.

Fapohunda admitted in Court that she falsely claimed to be a citizen in order to deceive the D.C. government into believing that she could lawfully work as a Senior Budget Analyst. She resigned in March 2010 after authorities discovered what happened.

In announcing today's guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the work of those who investigated the matter for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the Fraud Detection National Security (FDNS) Directorate of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and the District of Columbia Office of Inspector General. He also commended the staff at the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Paralegal Specialist Mary Treanor and Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan Haray, who prosecuted the case.

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