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MAN ARRESTED FOR ASSAULTING FEDERAL WITNESS

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and MARK J. MERSHON, the Assistant Director-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), announced the arrest of CAO YI GUO for assaulting and threatening to assault a witness in a federal criminal case. According to a Complaint filed in Manhattan federal court:

On February 9, 2008, CAO threatened the life of a witness who testified during a federal criminal trial, United States v. Hui Chen, et al., at the May 2007 conclusion of which the four defendants at trial were found guilty of extortion and other crimes stemming from a scheme to extort money from the drivers of private vans operating on a route between Manhattan and Brooklyn. On March 18, 2008, CAO dragged the witness out of a van and repeatedly kicked the witness as he lay on the ground. After bystanders intervened to stop CAO's assault of the witness, CAO again threatened the witness's life. The witness was subsequently taken to the hospital by ambulance.

CAO was arrested on March 26, 2008 and is scheduled to be presented before United States Magistrate Judge ANDREW J. PECK later today. If convicted, CAO faces a maximum sentence of 40 years' imprisonment.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative work of the FBI, and said that the investigation is continuing.

Assistant United States Attorney JONATHAN B. NEW is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.