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**FIVE CONVICTED OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING
OFFENSES BY MANHATTAN JURY**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and SALVATORE DALESSANDRO, the Acting Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), announced today that SUN DANEMAN, HYANG RAN KIM, a/k/a "Tina," SENG HEE RYAN, JAE SHIM, and TAE NAM THOMPSON were convicted, following a three-week jury trial before United States District Judge ALVIN K. HELLERSTEIN, of conspiring to transport women across state and foreign lines to engage in prostitution. The jury also convicted KIM and RYAN of conspiring to induce or entice women to travel across state and international lines to engage in prostitution.

The trial of these five defendants stemmed from the August 2006 arrests of more than 30 individuals charged as part of a wide-ranging human trafficking ring operating throughout the northeastern United States; 20 of the prostitution business owners and managers were charged in the Southern District of New York with operating and participating in an international prostitution ring -- the rest were charged in the Eastern District of New York. Other than the five defendants convicted today, all of the defendants charged in Manhattan pleaded guilty before trial. According to documents filed in Manhattan federal court and the evidence at trial:

The criminal operation smuggled women from South Korea into the United States and placed those women at various prostitution businesses located throughout the northeastern United States, including the businesses owned and managed by the

trial defendants. DANEMAN owned the "Magic Health Salon" in Waterbury, Connecticut; KIM owned the "OK Spa" in Washington, DC; RYAN owned the "Cleveland Park Holistic Center" in Washington, DC; SHIM owned the "Hong Kong" in Flushing, New York; and THOMPSON managed the "14K Spa" in Washington, DC.

The defendants used a network of drivers to deliver Korean women to work at the defendants' businesses as prostitutes, and to transport women within the network to meet customer demand. The defendants generated hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual income at their businesses by charging customers "house fees" to have sex with the women, to whom the defendants paid no wages or salaries. The women were also required to pay the defendants up to \$800 per week from the money the customers paid them for sex.

The trial evidence also showed that the women were typically required to sleep inside the defendants' businesses and follow "house rules" that barred them from going outside or refusing customers. Several of the women testified at trial about witnessing and experiencing sexual assaults inside the businesses owned and managed by defendants KIM and THOMPSON, and about how after the assaults, those defendants told the women to refund the customers' money and return to work.

The trial evidence included: recorded conversations between the defendants and a driver who supplied women to the businesses; the testimony of seven of the women who worked as prostitutes in the defendants' businesses; and testimony from several undercover officers who had entered the businesses. The evidence also included items seized by law enforcement agents from the defendants' businesses, including condoms hidden inside pepper shakers, shampoo bottles, detergent bottles, and other containers. Law enforcement agents seized picnic coolers containing over 2,000 condoms at DANEMAN's business.

Defendants KIM and RYAN face maximum sentences of ten years in prison; DANEMAN, SHIM, and THOMPSON face maximum sentences of five years in prison. All five defendants are scheduled to be sentenced on March 4, 2008. Of the defendants who pleaded guilty before trial, ten have been sentenced and eight are awaiting sentencing.

Mr. GARCIA praised the work of ICE, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Waterbury, Connecticut Police Department in this case.

Assistant United States Attorneys ELIE HONIG, LISA ZORNBERG, and JASON P.W. HALPERIN are in charge of the prosecution.