



*United States Attorney
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**ESCAPED MURDERER SENTENCED TO 46 MONTHS
FOR BANK FRAUD AND IDENTITY THEFT**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that IVAN ORTA CUPRILL was sentenced earlier today by United States District Judge DEBORAH A. BATTS to 46 months in prison for stealing the identity of another person and applying for student loans using that person's name and social security number. When he committed those crimes, from 1999 to 2002, CUPRILL was a wanted fugitive, having escaped from jail in Puerto Rico where he was serving a maximum 27-year sentence after having been convicted of murder and other crimes.

According to the Complaint and Indictment previously filed in Manhattan federal court, as well as court documents from Puerto Rico and statements on the record in this case:

Beginning in 1999, CUPRILL submitted applications for financial aid to attend the State University of New York at Old Westbury. In the applications, CUPRILL identified himself as "Jaime Torres" and used the Social Security number belonging to a person with that name. The loans were approved and funds were paid by Citibank USA to the college on CUPRILL's behalf. CUPRILL attended the school for over a year, but never repaid the loans.

At the time of his July 2006 arrest on these charges CUPRILL's true identity was not known. However, agents from the Department of Education in New York and Puerto Rico identified the defendant as CUPRILL using fingerprints, and learned that since 1994 CUPRILL had been wanted for escape from prison while serving a 27-year sentence for murder and other crimes.

On May 14, 2007, CUPRILL pleaded guilty before Judge BATTS to bank fraud and identity theft. In addition to imposing the 46-month prison term, to run consecutively to CUPRILL's other outstanding sentences, Judge BATTS sentenced CUPRILL to three years of supervised release and ordered him to make restitution

to the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation in the amount of \$4,000.

Mr. GARCIA praised the work of the Department of Education in this case.

Assistant United States Attorney JEFFREY A. BROWN is in charge of the prosecution.

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