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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SACRAMENTO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO THEFT OF \$144,000 IN WORKER'S COMPENSATION BENEFITS**

*Defendant misled Department of Labor into paying benefits to deceased father.*

SACRAMENTO --United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that DIRULISLAM BILAL ABDULLAH, 53, of Sacramento, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton to theft of government property and making a false statement to obtain employees' compensation.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General .

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kyle Reardon, who prosecuted the case, beginning in 1979, the defendant's father, Abdul-Kabeer Abdullah received approximately \$2,500 every month in worker's compensation benefits from the Department of Labor under the Federal Employees Compensation Act. On November 18, 1999, Abdul-Kabeer Abdullah died of lung cancer.

Following the death of Abdul-Kabeer Abdullah, the defendant completed three separate Department of Labor forms and forged his father's signature on these forms in order to continue to receive benefits. These benefits were deposited into a checking account to which the defendant had access. The defendant used the money to pay his mother's mortgage, life insurance premiums, daily living expenses, credit card bills, health club dues, and car repairs. The defendant also paid \$800 to his wife for care that she provided to his mother.

The defendant's mother passed away on February 12, 2003. On March 4, 2003, the defendant forged and submitted an additional Department of Labor form, in which he stated that his father was still alive and entitled to worker's compensation benefits. After his mother's death, the defendant continued to use his father's worker compensation payments to make the mortgage payments on his late parent's home.

As a result of the defendant's representations and forgery, the Department of Labor continued to pay benefits to Abdul-Kabeer Abdullah after his death. From Abdul-Kabeer Abdullah's death in 1999 until benefits were terminated in January 2004, the defendant stole from the Department of Labor \$144,366.11.

The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Karlton on October 15, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. The maximum statutory penalty for a violation of theft of government property is 10 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and a three year term of supervised release. The maximum statutory penalty for making a false statement to obtain employees' compensation is five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and a three year term of supervised release. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

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