



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

**Frank J. Magill,
Acting United States Attorney**

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, March 14, 2008

Elzahabi sentenced to time served for possessing fraudulent immigration documents

United States District Court Judge John Tunheim today sentenced a 44-year-old Minneapolis man to time served and two years of supervised release for possessing fraudulent immigration documents.

Elzahabi, who has been in custody since May 2004, will be turned over to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) who will determine whether or not Elzahabi will remain in the country or be deported.

In August 2007, a jury convicted Mohamed Kamal Elzahabi, also known as Abu Kamal al Lubnani, on three counts of possession of false immigration documents following a four-day trial. The jury deliberated for about eight hours before rendering its decision.

Court documents and evidence at trial showed that on Sept. 6, 2001; Sept. 21, 2001; and Feb. 7, 2002, Elzahabi used an alien registration receipt card, commonly referred to as a "green card," as evidence of his eligibility to stay and work in this country. That card, however, was obtained by fraud.

Specifically, the card was authorized because of Elzahabi's 1984 marriage to a U.S. citizen. That marriage occurred, however, only after Elzahabi paid a dancer at the Pink Pussy Cat Club in Houston, Texas, to become his bride for the sole purpose of evading immigration laws and obtaining an alien registration card. Elzahabi never lived with the woman as her husband, but he made statements to the contrary on his immigration petition.

This case was the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, ICE, Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Minneapolis Police Department, the Boston Police Department, and the Matagorda County Sheriff's Office in Texas.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Anders Folk and U.S. Department of Justice Trial Attorney John Van Lonkhuyzen.

