

## **MORE PLEAD GUILTY IN SCAM TO GET LICENSES**

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An Iraqi from Washington state pleaded guilty in federal court yesterday to his role in a scheme to obtain fraudulent Pennsylvania commercial driver's licenses, and a local man indicted in the same case has been indicted again on new charges.

Mustafa Al-Aboody, 30, of Seattle, was among 20 Middle Eastern men who came to Pittsburgh to bribe former Pennsylvania Department of Transportation license examiner Robert Ferrari for phony licenses.

Al-Aboody arrived in Pittsburgh from Detroit on Jan. 7, 2000, and filled out an application for a license at the State Office Building, Downtown, using a local address and phone number that weren't his and claiming that he had passed a test to haul hazardous materials.

Ferrari processed the application and issued a Pennsylvania commercial driver's license with a hazardous materials permit. Then Al-Aboody returned to Seattle and tried to exchange the Pennsylvania license for a Washington license, but Washington authorities refused and contacted authorities in Pennsylvania.

Several other Middle Eastern men charged in the scheme have recently pleaded guilty. About half of the 20 who were indicted are still scheduled for trial, although most are expected to plead. The only one who went to trial was found guilty.

Of the 20 indicted, one has been sentenced. Last week, Alawi Al-Baraa, 33, who is serving a state sentence for an assault in Erie, was sentenced to six months in prison, to be served concurrently with his state term.

On Tuesday, another man charged in the scheme was indicted again on six new counts. Kumeit Al-Saraf, 34, of Bloomfield, was charged in what prosecutors call a "superseding indictment" with one count of conspiring with others to produce fraudulent licenses between July 8, 1999, and Feb. 4, 2000.