

**Indictment Unsealed Charging Pennsylvania Man and Two Additional Individuals with Conspiracy to Illegally Export Restricted Chemical Laboratory Equipment to Syria**

US Attorney Peter J. Smith, Middle District of Pennsylvania APRIL 23, 2014

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<http://www.justice.gov/nsd/pdf/04232014-NSD.pdf>

WASHINGTON - The United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Industry and Security, Office of Export Enforcement announced today the unsealing of an indictment charging three individuals, including Ahmad Feras Diri, 39, of London, United Kingdom, Harold Rinko, 72, of Hallstead, Pa., and Moawea Deri, 36, a Syrian citizen, and a firm with which Ahmad Feras Diri and Moawea Deri were associated, for their alleged involvement in a conspiracy to illegally export laboratory equipment, including items used to detect chemical warfare agents, from the United States to Syria, in violation of federal law.

The indictment alleges that federal legislation and export controls seek to shut down the supply chain used by the Syrian state to support terrorism and to develop and proliferate weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons. Pursuant to regulations of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Export Administration, a license is required to export goods and services from the United States to Syria, other than limited categories of humanitarian food and medicine.

According to U.S. Attorney Peter Smith, the indictment, returned by a Scranton grand jury on Nov. 20, 2012, and sealed until today, charges the three individuals and the company with criminal conspiracy, wire fraud, illegal export of goods, money laundering and false statements.

According to Special Agent in Charge (SAC) John Kelleghan of HSI's Philadelphia Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office, Ahmad Feras Diri was arrested by the Metropolitan Police in London on March 14, 2013, and is facing extradition to the United States in connection with the charges in the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Harold Rinko, of Hallstead, Pa., previously waived arraignment on the sealed indictment. The government has also filed a plea agreement with Rinko which is subject to the approval of the court. Rinko, the owner-operator of Global Parts Supply, was allegedly engaged in the export business. Ahmad Feras Diri and Moawea Deri are brothers in the business of purchasing and transferring goods from the United States to Syria.