



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

November 9, 2004

MAN CHARGED IN EL PASO FOR AIDING TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

EL PASO, TEXAS – Johnny Sutton, United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas, announced that Mark Robert Walker, a student in Laramie, Wyoming, and a resident of Rochester, New York, was arrested this weekend in El Paso, Texas, and charged with providing material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization in violation of federal law.

The complaint alleges that Walker indicated to a federal law enforcement agent that he planned to travel to Somalia to fight for a Somali Islamic government and was planning to support the terrorist group Ittihad Al Islamiya. The State Department has designated Ittihad Al Islamiya as a terrorist organization as of April 2003.

This case is being investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the El Paso Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Joint Terrorism Task Force. The case is being prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Greg McDonald.

A complaint is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.