

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION
770 WASHINGTON AVE, SUITE 570
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-4700
Telephone: (334) 242-2984 or 1-800-222-1253 Fax: (334) 242-0240
Email: asc@asc.alabama.gov Website: www.asc.state.al.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mervish and Pier Arrested in Miami, will be Extradited to Alabama for Alleged Securities Fraud

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (January 23, 2006) District Attorney Arthur Green, 10th Judicial Circuit (Bessemer Cutoff) in Alabama, Director Joseph P. Borg, Alabama Securities Commission, and Jesus Torres, Special Agent-In-Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Miami announce the arrest of Jules Pier, at his place of business called SmartZ USA, and Mike Mervish at his place of employment. Both men will be extradited to Bessemer, Alabama where they face state charges for securities fraud.

These arrests culminated from indictments handed down by a January 2006 Jefferson County and Bessemer Cutoff Grand Jury, which alleged that Pier and Mervish were involved in securities fraud surrounding the preparation of a fraudulent offering document with SMD Automotive.

It is further alleged that Mervish and Pier were participants for different automobile schemes, one of which is the Gazelle scheme involving Eurasia motors. Mervish had previously been the subject of a hidden camera interview on 20/20 where he sold franchises for a car that didn't exist.

The Alabama Securities Commission, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), District Attorneys Office Bessemer Cutoff, and other regulatory agencies are working together in an ongoing investigation to prosecute other international schemes that may be linked to this case.

If you have further information concerning this investigation and case please contact:
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at 1 (877) DHS-2ICE or go to www.ice.gov .
Alabama Securities Commission Enforcement Division, 1 (800) 222-1253 or go to www.asc.state.al.us .

The Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) cautions potential investors to thoroughly check out any investment opportunity. Contact ASC for inquiries regarding securities broker-dealers, agents, investment advisors, investment advisor representatives, financial planners, the registration status of securities, to report suspected fraud, or obtain consumer information:

(Note: An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.)

###

For more information contact: ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION
770 WASHINGTON AVE, SUITE 570
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-4700
Telephone: (334) 242-2984 or 1-800-222-1253 Fax: (334) 242-0240
Email: asc@asc.alabama.gov Website: www.asc.state.al.us

If you have questions or require more information call Dan Lord, Education and Public Affairs.