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Southern District of New York*

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**ATLANTA WOMAN SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS IN PRISON FOR
HER ROLE IN \$2 MILLION THEFT FROM
THE GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that TEKETA THOMPCKINS, of Atlanta was sentenced today in Manhattan federal court to 48 months' imprisonment for her role in a large-scale wire fraud and money laundering scheme that defrauded the Government of Bermuda out of nearly \$2 million. THOMPCKINS was convicted of these charges after a two-week jury trial in December 2006. According to a superseding indictment (the "Indictment") against THOMPCKINS, earlier charges against THOMPCKINS and her co-defendant, HARRISON ISAAC, JR., and the evidence presented at trial:

The Government of Bermuda maintained an account (the "Bermuda Account") at The Bank of New York located in New York, New York, which it used to pay checks to vendors in United States dollars. ISAAC, a Management Accountant in the Accountant General's Department of the Ministry of Finance of the Government of Bermuda (the "Accountant General's Department"), was responsible for managing the Bermuda Account and tasked with overseeing payments to vendors from that account.

In May 2003, ISAAC began making unauthorized wire transfers from the Bermuda Account to accounts in the United States and Bermuda. These unauthorized transfers occurred between May 2003 and February 2004, and totaled approximately \$1,899,888. Of that amount, \$1,442,033 was transferred to accounts in the name of two businesses, All Brand New, Inc. ("All Brand New") and Simply Perfection, Inc. ("Simply Perfection"), which were based in Atlanta and controlled by THOMPCKINS. THOMPCKINS set up Simply Perfection as a shell company solely to receive and launder the vast majority of the \$1.4 million in stolen money. Neither All Brand New nor Simply Perfection was a vendor of products or services to the Bermudian Government or had

any right to these payments.

After THOMPCKINS received the stolen funds, she transferred a large portion of the money back to ISAAC, and also withdrew substantial sums of cash in ATM withdrawals, spending the money on shopping sprees, furniture, and rims and tires on a vintage Chevrolet. THOMPCKINS also often transferred money between accounts she controlled, including personal bank accounts and accounts in the name of All Brand New and Simply Perfection, in an effort to hide the proceeds of the scheme from detection by law enforcement. In addition, on March 17, 2004, THOMPCKINS attempted to smuggle approximately \$30,000 in cash to ISAAC in Bermuda; THOMPCKINS secreted approximately \$26,000 of this cash in her undergarments in an effort to avoid detection.

In imposing sentence on THOMPCKINS, United States District Judge LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN emphasized the seriousness of THOMPCKINS' conduct and the harm this scheme caused to the Government of Bermuda. Judge SWAIN also ordered THOMPCKINS to forfeit the illegal proceeds and make restitution to the Government of Bermuda, the details of which she deferred to a hearing on September 18, 2007.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative efforts of the FBI in this case.

THOMPCKINS, 34, resides in Lizella, Georgia. Her co-defendant, HARRISON ISAAC, a Bermudian national, was sentenced on August 25, 2006 to 55 months' imprisonment for his role in the scheme, and is currently serving his sentence.

This case is being prosecuted by the Major Crimes Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office. Assistant United States Attorneys JONATHAN S. ABERNETHY and NICHOLAS S. GOLDIN are in charge of the prosecution.

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