

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Undocumented Immigrant Blackmailed Into Sexual Relationship By Man Impersonating Federal Officer

VIC News / **Published On November 07, 2015 12:07 AM /**

Staff **November 07, 2015**



ST. THOMAS -- George W. Lewis, Jr., 50, pleaded guilty today in District Court here to one count of impersonating a federal officer and one count of blackmail, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced this evening via press release.

According to court records, beginning in October 2014, Lewis befriended an undocumented immigrant and claimed to be an immigration agent employed by the Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). Defendant then manipulated the undocumented immigrant into a sexual relationship under the threat that he would have the undocumented immigrant deported from the United States.

District Court Judge Curtis V. Gomez ordered Lewis, who was released on bond, to surrender to the U.S. Marshals Service on January 4, 2016. Sentencing is scheduled for March 10, 2016.

Angel M. Melendez, Special Agent in charge of HSI in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands said: "Regrettably, schemes like this involving the impersonation of federal officers potentially undermine the public's confidence in their government and law enforcement. HSI will continue to aggressively pursue those who exploit innocent individuals. Having people come forward to report such schemes is crucial to deterring this type of fraud and preventing others from becoming victims."

David D'Amato, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Professional Responsibility, Southeast Region, said: "This prosecution and plea represents the collaborative effort of the ICE Office of Professional Responsibility and Homeland Security Investigations, and sends a strong message that criminal acts such as those perpetrated by Mr. Lewis will be vigorously pursued. Taking advantage of foreign nationals in the immigration system for any reason will not be tolerated, and the motive of blackmail for personal gain is especially egregious."

The case was investigated by HSI and OPR. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Everard E. Potter.