

Calgary man pleads guilty to human smuggling

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The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) announced that Mohammed Rafiq, 63, of Calgary, pled guilty in November 2017 of two counts pursuant to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) for a document violation and human smuggling and one count pursuant to the Criminal Code for a document violation.

The two separate incidents took place in 2016 and 2017, when Mr. Rafiq was paid to assist and escort two women to claim refugee status in Canada. The first offence took place at Toronto Pearson International Airport and the second at Calgary International Airport. In both cases, he was in possession of third-party documents used to facilitate the entry of these women.

Sentencing for Mr. Rafiq is scheduled on May 16, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. in Calgary Provincial Court.

"This investigation further demonstrates the CBSA's commitment to investigating and prosecuting individuals who abuse and seek to profit illegally through circumventing Canada's immigration system," said Kim R. Scoville, Regional Director General, Canada Border Services Agency, Prairie Region. "I am proud of the diligence of all those involved in this case. These convictions send a clear message that those who attempt to compromise the system will be prosecuted."

The CBSA is responsible for enforcing the IRPA and investigates cases of immigration consultant fraud, human smuggling, marriages of convenience, immigration document fraud, and employing foreign nationals without authorization, etc.

The Public Prosecution Service of Canada (PPSC) is responsible for prosecuting offences in a manner that is free of any improper influence and that respects the public interest. The PPSC is also responsible for providing prosecution-related advice to law enforcement agencies across Canada.

Members of the public can play a key role in keeping our border safe. If you have information about suspicious cross-border activity or immigration-related offences, please contact the CBSA's Border Watch Toll-free Line at 1-888-502-9060. All information is treated as confidential.

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