

BIS Denies Export Privileges of Multiple Parties in Conspiracy to Ship Web Monitoring Equipment to Syria

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) today announced the imposition of denials of export privileges against two individuals and three companies involved in a conspiracy to illegally export and reexport web monitoring and controlling equipment and software to Syria, including to the state-run Syrian Telecommunications Establishment (STE). The illegally exported and reexported items are controlled by the Commerce Department for national security and anti-terrorism reasons and as encryption items.

The agency imposed a denial order for five years against Aiman Ammar and for six years against Rashid Albuni, both of the United Arab Emirates. Their companies, Engineering Construction and Contracting (ECC) and Advanced Technology Solutions (ATS), located in Damascus, Syria, each received seven-year denials, and a third company iT-Wave FZCO of Dubai, U.A.E., received a four-year denial. A \$7 million penalty also was imposed, with all but \$250,000 suspended.

"The settlement announced today results from the aggressive law enforcement effort to prevent the Syrian government from acquiring technology that can repress the Syrian people," said Under Secretary of Commerce Eric L. Hirschhorn. "The investigation and subsequent prosecution illustrate the serious consequences companies face when they attempt to evade U.S. export controls."

BIS charged that starting in October 2010 Ammar, Albuni, ECC, ATS, and later iT-Wave, implemented a scheme to secure U.S.-origin items for use in the Syrian market. Albuni directly or indirectly provided false destination and end user information that the items were intended for end users in such locations as Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkey, Egypt and U.A.E., when the items were actually intended for Syria.

Albuni was involved in negotiating sales, submitting purchase orders and serving as the end user contact for shipments. Ammar directed payments from his personal and business bank accounts for the unlawful exports or reexports to Syria. Through this scheme, Ammar and Albuni supplied STE with U.S.-origin computer equipment and software designed for use in monitoring and controlling Web traffic and other associated equipment that they obtained from U.S. companies.

In previous related enforcement actions, BIS imposed a \$2.8 million penalty on Computerlinks FZCO in April 2013, and a \$125,000 penalty on Aramex Emirates LLC in May 2014. BIS also added Waseem Jawad and Infotec of Ras Al Khaimah Free Trade Zone, U.A.E. to the Entity List in December 2011.

BIS is the principal agency involved in the implementation and enforcement of export controls for commercial technologies and many military items. The BIS Office of Export Enforcement detects, prevents, investigates and assists in the sanctioning of illegal exports of such items. For

more information, please visit us at www.bis.doc.gov, and follow us on Twitter:
<http://twitter.com/BISgov>.