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## **TWO SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON IN SCHEME TO SELL MISSILE PARTS TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

A Southern Californian woman was sentenced to one year in federal prison today for her role in a scheme to use her export company to illegally export arms parts to the People's Republic of China.

Gabriela De Brea, a 62-year-old Alta Loma resident, was sentenced by United States District Judge A. Howard Matz.

Brea's business partner and co-defendant, Ahmad Nahardani, a 56-year-old Encino resident, was sentenced by Judge Matz on August 5 to 21 months in prison.

Both defendants and their company pleaded guilty last year to violating the federal Arms Export Control Act by attempting to illegally export parts for the F-4 Phantom Fighter, the Hawk Missile and the AIM-9 "Sidewinder" Missile to the PRC.

Nahardani and Brea owned and operated Mexpar International, Inc., which was located in Azusa and advertised that it and a sister company were "Experts in Exports."

All three defendants pleaded guilty in September 2003 to two counts of violating the Arms Export Control Act. In July, Judge Matz placed Mexpar on probation for three years and ordered it to pay a \$75,000 fine. Additionally, all three defendants agreed to administrative debarment and to refrain from participating in any contract in which the United States government is a party.

During the course of a five-year undercover investigation, Nahardani and Brea sold the parts to an undercover operative and attempted to ship the weapons and missile parts to China on eight separate occasions. All of the parts were seized by Customs officials before being shipped out of the country. The illegal conduct took place from 1998 through 2001.

The F-4 Phantom Fighter is a military aircraft used by the United States Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. The Hawk Missile is a surface-to-air, anti-aircraft missile used by

the United States Army and Marine Corps. The AIM-9 Sidewinder Missile is a supersonic heat-seeking, air-to-air, anti-aircraft missile used by the United States Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

This investigation was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service.

"One of ICE's top priorities is preventing terrorists and hostile nations from illegally obtaining U.S. military products and sensitive technology," said Loraine Brown, special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Los Angeles. "This case should be a wake-up call for anyone engaged in illegally exporting these types of items that they will pay a significant price for putting our nation at risk."

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