

## Ex-Oregon DOC food svcs. administrator indicted in bribery scheme

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Defendant is considered a fugitive

EUGENE, Ore. - A federal grand jury in Eugene, Oregon returned a twenty-count indictment last week charging Farhad "Fred" Monem and Karen Monem with several offenses relating to an alleged bribery scheme involving Fred Monem's former position as the Food Services Administrator for the Oregon Department of Corrections.

The indictment charges both Monems with conspiracy, mail fraud, wire fraud, bribery, money laundering, and interstate travel in aid of racketeering. The maximum penalty for each of the conspiracy and interstate transportation charges is five years imprisonment, for each of the bribery charges it is ten years imprisonment, and for each of the fraud and money laundering charges it is 20 years imprisonment. Each of the offenses carries a maximum fine of \$250,000. The indictment also contains a forfeiture allegation, naming several assets as forfeitable if either defendant is convicted.

Farhad "Fred" Monem is considered a fugitive. There is a warrant pending for his arrest. Anyone having information on his location is asked to contact the FBI at 503-362-6601.

Karen Monem was scheduled to be arraigned in the United States District Court in Eugene on Monday.

An indictment is merely an allegation of criminal conduct. Farhad "Fred" Monem and Karen Monem are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The investigation of this case was conducted by the Internal Revenue Service (Criminal Investigation Division), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with the assistance of the Oregon Department of Corrections. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Chris Cardani.

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