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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 24, 2006

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U.S. ARRESTS PROVIDER OF HIZBALLAH TV IN NEW YORK AREA

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and MARK MERSHON, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), announced the arrest and unsealing of a criminal complaint charging JAVED IQBAL, a/k/a "John Iqbal," 42, of Staten Island, New York, with conspiring to violate the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). Specifically, the complaint alleges that, through a company called HDTV Ltd. located in Brooklyn, IQBAL and others provided customers in the New York area with satellite broadcasts of al Manar, which is a television station owned and/or operated by Hizballah. ["Al Manar" means "the beacon" in Arabic.] The Department of Treasury named al Manar as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity in March 2006, thereby making it a crime to (among other things) engage in business transactions with al Manar. In conjunction with the arrest, agents executed search warrants at both HDTV's Brooklyn office and IQBAL's Staten Island residence (where, it is alleged, IQBAL maintained several satellite dishes).

IQBAL was arrested yesterday and will be presented today in Manhattan federal court before United States Magistrate Judge Gabriel W. Gorenstein, who will decide whether IQBAL is detained or released on bail pending further proceedings.

Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts of the FBI's Joint Terrorist Task Force in conducting the investigation.

The charges contained in the complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Assistant United States Attorney Stephen Miller is in charge of the prosecution.

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