

ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.
GOVERNOR

ALFRED W. REDMER, JR.
COMMISSIONER

MICHAEL S. STEELE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

DEBBIE ROSEN MCKERROW
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS



STATE OF MARYLAND
MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION
525 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, Maryland 21202-2272
Writer's Direct Dial: 410-468-2007
Facsimile Number: 410-468-2005
e-mail: kbarrow@mdinsurance.state.md.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alami and Keshisian Arrested on Insurance Fraud Charges

BALTIMORE, MD (July 22, 2003) – The Maryland Insurance Administration's Insurance Fraud Division in conjunction with the Montgomery County Police Department Centralized Auto Theft Unit today announced the arrests of Wajdi F. Alami and Aires Keshisian, both of Montgomery County on charges of felony insurance fraud.

The alleged perpetrators are accused of staging an accident on May 21, 2003 involving Keshisian's Audi convertible and a Mazda Protégé rented by Alami from Hertz-Rent-A-Car. As a result of an anonymous tip to police, the damage reported in subsequent insurance claims filed with GEICO and Hertz was witnessed by Montgomery County Police being staged at Sam's Auto Body in Rockville, MD. Claims filed by Keshisian for damages to his Audi by the rental car amounted to more than \$19,000 and the vehicle was deemed a total loss.

Keshisian and Alami are each charged with two counts of felony insurance fraud under Maryland Insurance Article 27-403(2), one count of conspiracy to commit insurance fraud under Maryland Insurance Article 27-403(2), and one count of felony theft and one count of attempted felony theft under Maryland Criminal Law Article 7-104.

-over-

The investigation into this scenario continues and additional arrests are expected.

The Insurance Fraud Division is a department of the Maryland Insurance Administration and consists of staff of the Maryland State Police, the Office of the Attorney General and fraud investigators of the MIA. The division receives cases from anonymous tips to its hotline, 1-800-846-4069, and from referrals by insurance companies and other individuals.