

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Media Release

General Headquarters · Columbus, Ohio



For Immediate Release: November 17, 2008

Contact: Lt. Tony Bradshaw or Sgt. Tim Karwatski (614) 752-2792

Patrol seizes 618 counterfeit purses, with a street value of more than \$100,000 in Lucas County traffic stop

TOLEDO – Two Chinese Nationals are facing deportation after Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers seized 618 counterfeit Coach, Louis Vuitton, Chanel and Gucci purses during a traffic stop last Thursday on the Ohio Turnpike in Lucas County. The driver, Gang Xu, 43, and passenger, De Fu Qu, 41, both of Flushing, New York, were charged with trademark counterfeiting, a third-degree felony.

A trooper stopped a 2003 Lincoln Navigator, with New York registration, for a following too closely violation westbound near milepost 54 on the Ohio Turnpike in Lucas County. A Patrol canine alerted to the vehicle and a probable cause search revealed 22 large trash bags containing 618 counterfeit purses, with a street value of more than \$100,000. The suspects were enroute to Chicago to sell the purses as authentic merchandise.

The suspects were incarcerated in the Lucas County Jail. If convicted, the suspects could face up to five years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine. Patrol investigators contacted the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency and the suspects face deportation.

The Patrol worked with the Trademark Enforcement Agency, out of Cleveland, to analyze the items seized and confirm the purses were counterfeit.

According to Patrol investigators, counterfeiting is a means of funding for a variety of criminal enterprises, such as terrorism, street gangs and organized crime. Often times these products are manufactured in sweat shops, in very poor conditions, where workers make near to nothing and there is little concern for the health or well-being of either worker or consumer.

#

#

#

Note to editors: Want to receive our media releases via email? Send your name, phone number, email, media affiliation and work address to wwwohp@dps.state.oh.us

08-139 Counterfeit