

Ohio State Highway Patrol



MEDIA RELEASE



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Troopers seize approximately \$48,987 worth of Khat in Wyandot County traffic stop

UPPER SANDUSKY – Two men are facing felony drug charges after Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers seized 240 pounds of Khat, worth approximately \$48,987, following a traffic stop in Wyandot County.

On July 27, 2017, troopers stopped a 2005 Chevy Trailblazer, with Michigan registration, for a speed violation. An Upper Sandusky Police Department drug-sniffing canine responded and alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed the contraband.

The suspect, Jesse Naim, 19, of Dearborn, Mich., and Christian Reivera-Ittayem, 20, of Dearborn Heights, Mich., were incarcerated in the Wyandot County Jail and charged with possession of Khat and trafficking in drugs, both second-degree felonies.

If convicted, each could face up to 16 years in prison and up to a \$30,000 fine.

Khat is a flowering evergreen shrub native to East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. The leaves, twigs and shoots of the Khat shrub are chewed like tobacco and is considered a controlled substance.

A photo of the seized contraband is available for download on the Patrol's website at www.statepatrol.ohio.gov

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