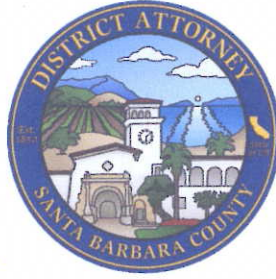


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 01-86

RELEASE NUMBER

January 3, 2012

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley*, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Gary Gemberling, Deputy District Attorney

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

January 3, 2012

Re: People v. Masood Azizi (Tribal Rugs and Art)

Today, January 3, 2012, Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce Dudley announced the successful prosecution of Masood Azizi, the owner of Tribal Rugs and Art, located in downtown Santa Barbara. Mr. Azizi pled guilty to one count of Revenue & Taxation Code section 6071. Mr. Azizi was operating his business without a seller's permit after his seller's permit had been suspended for failure to pay sales tax to the State Board of Equalization. Between February 17, 2009 and August 24, 2011, Mr. Azizi was collecting sales tax from customers and then failed to file proper returns and pay sales tax to the State of California. Mr. Azizi was placed on three years of probation and ordered to pay restitution in the sum of \$30,759.02. This sum includes \$25,393.52 in unpaid taxes, interest and penalties and \$5,362.50 in Board of Equalization investigation costs. District Attorney Joyce Dudley commented, "This is the type of crime that affects all of us. We have sales tax added to almost everything we purchase with the understanding that those sales tax dollars will go to the State of California. Mr. Azizi was collecting sales tax from his customers and keeping it."

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