



PRESS RELEASE

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Degree Mills Scam

Dubai, 25 August 2008: Operation Golden Seal in the US was the first major prosecution of a degree mill in the United States for a number of years, and led to the sentencing of eight people who pled guilty to conspiracy to sell fake degrees. For the first time however 9,612 buyers of these documents were also named as having bought their degrees for a few hundred to several thousand dollars. The Spokesman Review, a Washington based newspaper not only gave the names but also detailed the types of degrees that were bought with no study – everything from teaching qualifications, to medical doctors to nuclear engineers. This has included hundreds of individuals working in Asia and the Middle East.

IntegraScreen, the leading international document screening specialists, stated that the latest degree mill to be identified is just the tip of the iceberg. "We identify thousands of degree mill qualifications for our clients every year" said Paul Kane, director of IntegraScreen's Dubai office. "Many organisations reward staff who gain high level qualifications with pay rises and promotions thus there is a great incentive to purchase these bogus qualifications".

IntegraScreen has developed a database of over 1000 degree mills and has a dedicated research unit that focuses on this issue. "Doctors, engineers, architects and high ranking government officials are all known to have purchased these fake degrees. Over 90% of degree mills originate in the US and it is our understanding that the US authorities are planning to crack down hard on them. There will undoubtedly be a lot more lists released in future". Mr. Kane suggested that employers and governments carefully evaluate the credibility of all qualifications and do not take them at face value.

About IntegraScreen

IntegraScreen provides international due diligence services, immigration screening and risk data to corporations and governments. Established in 2000 and headquartered in Singapore, we employ more than 370 researchers in 15 locations around the world. Our team members speak more than 60 languages and specialize in emerging markets such as China, India, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Our services and data products are used for business risk management, immigration screening and compliance with the Sarbanes Oxley Act, anti-money laundering regulations, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and the USA Patriot Act.

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