

Fraud convict's sentence halved

He will serve 35 months after helping authorities with Boulis murder case

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A federal judge in Miami on Wednesday cut in half the prison term of a onetime business partner of disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff, rewarding Adam Kidan for cooperating with federal and state investigations.

U.S. District Judge Paul Huck agreed to reduce Kidan's 70-month sentence for fraud to 35 months based on requests from prosecutors. They said Kidan, 43, provided substantial assistance to officials investigating the 2001 slaying of Fort Lauderdale entrepreneur Konstantinos "Gus" Boulis and other criminal mat-

ters. Brian Cavanagh, the prosecutor in charge of Broward County's homicide unit, said Kidan provided "a detailed explanation" of his knowledge of the Boulis killing, putting his own safety at risk.

Kidan is expected to testify at the trials of Anthony "Big Tony" Moscatiello, Anthony "Little Tony" Ferrari and James "Pudgy" Fiorillo, who could receive the death penalty if convicted of Boulis' murder. All three have pleaded not guilty.

Kidan, a Long Island businessman, and Moscatiello had known each other for years. After Kidan gave a deposition in November 2007, three

men assaulted Kidan in a prison bathroom, said his attorney, Jon Rosenthal.

"There was a perceived threat," Rosenthal said.

Federal prosecutors said Kidan was particularly helpful with the federal fraud case against Abramoff. Kidan's cooperation created a "ripple effect" by prompting the once powerful Washington, D.C., lobbyist to begin cooperating with authorities in a wide-ranging investigation of corruption on Capitol Hill, prosecutor Lawrence LaVecchio said.

Kidan and Abramoff were co-defendants in a fraud case stemming from their purchase of Dania Beach-based SunCruz Casinos from Boulis in 2000. Both received 70-month sentences after pleading guilty to creating phony financial records to per-



Kidan



Boulis

suade lenders to back their bid for the gambling cruise line.

Abramoff is also seeking a sentence reduction in the SunCruz case and is set to be sentenced on corruption charges later this year.

LaVecchio said Kidan alerted prosecutors in 2003 to e-mails implicating Abramoff in the SunCruz case.

With the reduction, Kidan has 15 months remaining on his sentence at

the federal penitentiary in Lisbon, Ohio. His original release date was Dec. 14, 2011.

Kidan was fighting with Boulis for control of the cruise line when Boulis was killed. Kidan has denied any involvement in the hit and says Moscatiello and Ferrari confessed they were behind it.

Cavanagh said Kidan's information filled in gaps in the government's case. The veteran Broward prosecutor told Huck he has concerns for Kidan's safety.

"I'm worried because we need him as a witness," Cavanagh said. "I admire his courage."

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