

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Media Release

General Headquarters • Columbus, Ohio



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State troopers make Khat seizure in Wayne County

ASHLAND – A Columbus man is facing felony drug charges this week in the Wayne County Common Pleas Court after Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers seized approximately \$50,000 of Khat during a traffic stop. Mohamed Humed, 27, will appear in the Wayne County Common Pleas Court this Friday on a second-degree felony possession of drugs charge.

Last Thursday at approximately 5:04 p.m. a state trooper stopped a 1992 Honda Accord being driven by Humed for a speeding violation on Interstate 71 southbound near milepost 199 in Wayne County. Humed was subsequently arrested for driving under suspension.

An administrative inventory of the vehicle revealed a white plastic bag containing Khat on the driver's floorboard and a larger quantity of Khat in the trunk rolled up in a sheet. In total the drugs weighed approximately 21 pounds with a street value of \$50,000. Khat is an evergreen shrub native to tropical East Africa, having dark green opposite leaves that are chewed fresh for their stimulating effects.

Humed was incarcerated in the Wayne County Jail. If convicted of the felony drug possession charge, He could face up eight years in prison and a maximum \$15,000 fine.

During the first nine months of the year troopers made 4,077 drug arrests – which were 548 more drug arrests than in 2007.

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Note to editors: Photos of the Khat are available on the Patrol's Web site, www.statepatrol.ohio.gov

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