



SIGTARP

Office of the Special Inspector General
for the Troubled Asset Relief Program

Amir Meiri

In November 2018, a federal court sentenced Amir Meiri to five years in prison for a criminal scheme that defrauded homeowners seeking mortgage modifications, including through TARP's HAMP program. Meiri and the other co-defendants falsely represented to homeowners – some of whom were elderly or in poor health – that they were part of the HAMP program and could assist them with a loan modification that could save their homes. Instead, they deceived homeowners into selling their homes for less than the actual values to Launch Development. That company was owned and controlled by Meiri and Herzal Meiri, who a court sentenced to 10 years in prison.

As part of the scheme homeowners were falsely assured that their homes would be returned to them after a short period, and that they could remain in their homes. Homeowners often were then forced to vacate their homes, and in many cases had no other place to live. Many of the homes were resold for an enormous profit.

Meiri was ordered to pay \$6.5 million in restitution. SIGTARP was joined in the investigation by the FBI and the New York State Department of Financial Services. The U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of New York prosecuted the case.