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## Md pharmacist gets 6½ years for dealing OxyContin

By the Associated Press

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ALEXANDRIA, Va.

A former supermarket pharmacist has been sentenced to 6½ years in prison for helping northern Virginia drug dealers obtain nearly 5,000 OxyContin pills.

Vidhyanand "Vick" Mahase (vee-duh-YAWN-ind meh-HAYCE), a pharmacist at a Safeway in Silver Spring, Md., pleaded guilty to a drug trafficking conspiracy in which he was paid tens of thousands of dollars to fill out bogus prescriptions for OxyContin, a painkiller that can be addictive if abused.

The conspiracy ran through late 2007 and early 2008. Prosecutors say in December 2007 alone, Mahase pocketed \$15,000 from the fake prescriptions.

Mahase was sentenced Friday in federal court in Alexandria.

He also pleaded guilty to perjury for fabricating a story that six armed black men threatened to kill him if he stopped providing the prescriptions.

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