

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Crim. No. 11-
:
:
v. : 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h)
: 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1)
:
:
MORDCHAI FISH, : I N F O R M A T I O N
a/k/a "Mordechai Fisch,"
a/k/a "Martin Fisch"

The defendant having waived in open court prosecution by Indictment, the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey charges:

1. At all times relevant to this Information:
 - a. Defendant MORDCHAI FISH, a/k/a "Mordechai Fisch," a/k/a "Martin Fisch" (hereinafter, "defendant FISH") resided in Brooklyn, New York and served as a rabbi for a synagogue located on 16th Avenue in Brooklyn, New York.
 - b. Through his position as a rabbi, defendant FISH operated or had access to several purportedly charitable organizations, including Levovous, Congregation Lev Yosher, Inc., Beth Pinchas, CNE and Boyoner Gemilias Cheshed (collectively, the "Purported Charities"), which held bank accounts at various financial institutions.
 - c. Neither defendant FISH nor any of the Purported Charities was licensed to transmit money.

d. Coconspirator Lavel Schwartz was a rabbi who was closely related to defendant FISH and resided at an address on Hooper Street in Brooklyn, New York.

e. Coconspirator Yolie Gertner resided in Brooklyn, New York.

f. Coconspirator David Goldhirsh resided in Brooklyn, New York and operated the charitable organization known as Boyoner Gemilias Cheshed.

g. There was a cooperating witness (hereinafter, the "CW") who had been charged in a Federal criminal complaint with bank fraud in or about May 2006. At the direction, and with the approval of, the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), the CW represented to defendant FISH that the CW sought to conceal and launder illicit funds through an already-established underground money transfer network to which defendant FISH had access. The CW also repeatedly represented to defendant FISH that the funds that the CW sought to conceal and launder were proceeds from the CW's illegal schemes and businesses, including bank fraud, trafficking in counterfeit goods, and concealing assets and monies in connection with bankruptcy proceedings. The funds provided by the CW to defendant FISH and others were in the form of certified checks drawn upon a bank account maintained at a financial institution located in Monmouth County, New Jersey.

h. The banks maintaining the accounts for the Purported

Charities which defendant FISH used to transfer and launder illicit proceeds were financial institutions that engaged in interstate commerce.

3. From in or about January 2008 to in or about July 2009, in Monmouth County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, defendant

MORDCHAI FISH

knowingly and with intent to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, and control of property believed to be the proceeds of specified unlawful activities-- that is, bank fraud, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344, trafficking in counterfeit goods, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 2320, and the concealment of property belonging to the estate of a debtor from a federal bankruptcy trustee and bankruptcy court, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 152--conspired and agreed with Lavel Schwartz, Yolie Gertner, David Goldhirsh and others to conduct financial transactions involving property represented by the CW at the direction, and with the approval, of a federal official authorized to investigate and prosecute violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956, to be the proceeds of specified unlawful activities, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(3).

4. It was the object of the conspiracy for defendant FISH

and others to obtain fees for laundering the CW's checks through bank accounts held in the names of the Purported Charities and returning cash to the CW through an international, underground money transfer network.

5. It was part of the conspiracy that:

a. Defendant FISH agreed to conceal and launder the CW's funds through the international, underground money transfer network to which defendant FISH had access.

b. Defendant FISH agreed to accept checks from the CW which had been drawn upon the Monmouth County-based bank account and convert those checks into cash.

c. Defendant FISH directed the CW to make the checks payable to the Purported Charities that were to be used as fronts for concealing and laundering the CW's money.

d. Defendant FISH agreed to accept and accepted checks from the CW that were represented by the CW to be the proceeds of specified unlawful activities.

e. Defendant FISH then deposited and caused to be deposited the CW's checks into bank accounts held in the names of the Purported Charities at various financial institutions in New York and elsewhere.

f. In return for a fee, defendant FISH made cash available to the CW through various unlicensed money transmitters or individuals including but not limited to coconspirators Gertner,

and Goldhirsh, in Brooklyn.

g. Defendant FISH and the CW either received the cash at the address on Hooper Street or retrieved the cash from one of the various coconspirators and returned with the cash to locations in Brooklyn, New York where the cash would be counted. Once the CW had been provided with the agreed-upon amount less defendant FISH's fee, the CW would return with the cash to New Jersey.

h. Defendant FISH charged, and received from, the CW a fee of approximately 10% to conceal and launder the CW's illicit money.

i. Defendant FISH met with and conducted money laundering transactions with the CW in or around Brooklyn, New York, including at defendant FISH's residence, the residence of coconspirator Level Schwartz and at the synagogue where defendant FISH served as a rabbi.

j. Defendant FISH took measures to ensure that the money laundering transactions that he conducted for the CW went undetected by using veiled or coded language, warning the CW of the possibility that federal authorities would use "bugs" and other electronic surveillance to monitor their conversations and providing the CW with multiple SIM cards for the CW's cellular telephone to thwart efforts by law enforcement to record their telephone conversations.

n. Between in or about January 2008 and in or about July 2009, defendant FISH engaged in more than 15 completed money laundering transactions with the CW, in which defendant FISH converted approximately \$900,000 in checks that the CW represented to be proceeds of specified unlawful activities into a similar amount in cash, with defendant FISH retaining approximately ten percent in fees to be shared among defendant FISH and his coconspirators for laundering the CW's money.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

(18 U.S.C. § 982)

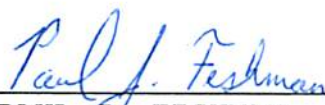
As the result of committing the aforementioned offense in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h), as alleged in this Information, defendant FISH shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1), all property, real and personal, that was involved in such offense or traceable to such property, in the amount of \$90,000, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) \$7,094.25 in U.S. currency seized by the FBI from defendant FISH's residence on or about July 23, 2009; and
- (2) funds totaling \$1,100.00 seized from HSBC Account No. 671750119, in the name of Levovous, seized on or about July 23, 2009.

If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of defendant FISH:

- (1) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- (2) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- (3) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- (4) has been substantially diminished in value; or
- (5) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty,

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(b), to seek forfeiture of any other property of defendant FISH up to the value of the above forfeitable property.



PAUL J. FISHMAN
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY