



Between November 2007 and March 2008, BOUT agreed to sell to the FARC millions of dollars' worth of weapons -- including surface-to-air missile systems ("SAMs"), armor piercing rocket launchers, AK-47 firearms, millions of rounds of ammunition, Russian spare parts for rifles, anti-personnel land mines, C-4 plastic explosives, night-vision equipment, "ultralight" airplanes that could be outfitted with grenade launchers and missiles, and unmanned aerial vehicles. BOUT agreed to sell the weapons to two confidential sources working with the DEA (the "CSs"), who represented that they were acquiring these weapons for the FARC, with the specific understanding that the weapons were to be used to attack United States helicopters in Colombia.

As described in the Indictment, during a covertly recorded meeting in Thailand on March 6, 2008, BOUT stated to the CSs that he could arrange to airdrop the arms to the FARC in Colombia, and offered to sell two cargo planes to the FARC that could be used for arms deliveries. BOUT also provided a map of South America, and asked the CSs to show him American radar locations in Colombia. BOUT said that he understood that the CSs wanted the arms for use against American personnel in Colombia, and advised that the United States was also his enemy, stating that the FARC's fight against the United States was also his fight. During the meeting, BOUT also offered to provide people to train the FARC in the use of the arms.

The Indictment unsealed today charges BOUT with four separate terrorism offenses:

- Count One: Conspiracy to kill United States nationals;
- Count Two: Conspiracy to kill United States officers or employees;
- Count Three: Conspiracy to acquire and use an anti-aircraft missile; and
- Count Four: Conspiracy to provide material support or resources to a designated foreign terrorist organization.

If convicted, BOUT faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment on each of Counts One through Three, including a mandatory minimum sentence of 25 years' imprisonment for Count Three. BOUT faces a maximum sentence of 15 years' imprisonment on Count Four. The case is assigned to United States District Judge SHIRA A. SCHEINDLIN.

The United States is actively pursuing BOUT's extradition from Thailand.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative work of the DEA and thanked the Royal Thai Police, Office of the Attorney General for Thailand, and the Royal Thai government for their assistance. Mr. GARCIA also thanked the Romanian Border Police, the Romanian Prosecutor's Office Attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice, the Korps Politie Curacao of the Netherlands Antilles, and the Danish National Police Security Services, for their cooperation, and thanked the U.S. Department of Justice Office of International Affairs.

"Viktor Bout has long been considered by the international community as one of the world's most prolific arms traffickers," said U.S. Attorney MICHAEL J. GARCIA. "Today, Bout is in Thai custody facing extradition to the United States, where he will be prosecuted for agreeing to arm a terrorist organization, an aim of which was to kill American citizens."

"Viktor Bout no doubt faces some of the most extraordinarily serious conspiracy charges possible for his crimes against Americans," said DEA Acting Administrator MICHELE M. LEONHART. "With the unsealing of this indictment, we are one step closer to ensuring Bout has delivered his last load of high-powered weaponry and armed his final terrorist."

Assistant United States Attorneys ANJAN SAHNI and BRENDAN R. McGUIRE are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.