

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Hon.
 :
 v. : Crim. No.
 :
 MICHAEL ARATO : 18 U.S.C. § 201(b)(2) and § 2
 :
 : **INFORMATION**

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

Bribery Of A Public Official

1. At all times relevant to this Information:

A. Defendant MICHAEL ARATO (hereinafter "ARATO") was employed by the Transportation Security Administration ("TSA") as a Supervisory Transportation Security Officer ("STSO") at Newark Liberty International Airport (the "Airport").

B. TSA was an agency of the United States government within the United States Department of Homeland Security. TSA conducted security screenings ("Screenings") of airline passengers at the Airport. Screenings were mandatory for all passengers who wished to travel from the Airport. Screenings were typically conducted by TSA employees, including Transportation Security Officers and Lead Transportation Security Officers ("LTSOs"), under the supervision of STSOs such as defendant ARATO.

C. ARATO worked as a STSO at the B-3 security checkpoint for Terminal B at the Airport (the "B-3 checkpoint").

Defendant ARATO regularly supervised and participated in the secondary Screenings of passengers.

2. Beginning in or about October 2009 to on or about September 8, 2010, one of the LTSOs at the B-3 checkpoint (referred to herein as the "B-3 LTSO") regularly stole cash from passengers during Screenings that he conducted at the B-3 checkpoint, totaling between approximately \$10,000 and \$30,000. Defendant ARATO was the immediate supervisor of the B-3 LTSO and was fully aware that the B-3 LTSO was regularly stealing from passengers during this time period. Defendant ARATO and the B-3 LTSO agreed that when the B-3 LTSO stole cash from a passenger traveling through the B-3 checkpoint, the B-3 LTSO would "kick up" half of the amount that the B-3 LTSO had stolen to defendant ARATO. In exchange for the payments that he received from the B-3 LTSO, defendant ARATO never notified his superiors at TSA or any other law enforcement agency about the B-3 LTSO's illegal activities and defendant ARATO permitted the B-3 LTSO to steal from passengers. In addition, defendant ARATO regularly stole from passengers for himself.

3. Defendant ARATO was the STSO at the B-3 checkpoint during the hours of approximately 11:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on September 13, 14, 15, 22, 27 and 29, 2010 and October 4 and 5, 2010. The B-3 LTSO, who was a cooperating witness with law enforcement authorities by this time, was working as a LTSO at the B-3 checkpoint during these shifts. During each of these shifts, ARATO accepted bribes from the B-3 LTSO totaling

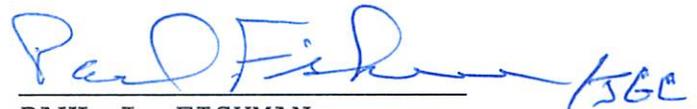
approximately \$3,100 that defendant ARATO believed were his share of the proceeds from thefts that the B-3 committed at the B-3 checkpoint.

4. From on or about September 13, 2010 to on or about October 5, 2010,

MICHAEL ARATO,

being a public official, directly and indirectly, knowingly and corruptly demanded, sought, received, accepted, and agreed to receive and accept money personally, in return for: being influenced in the performance of official acts; being influenced to commit and aid in committing, and to collude in, and allow, fraud, and make opportunity for the commission of fraud, on the United States; and being induced to do and omit to do acts in violation of his official duty.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 201(b) (2) (A), (B) and (C) and Section 2.



PAUL J. FISHMAN
United States Attorney

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18 U.S.C. § 201(b)(2) & § 2

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