

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Hon.
v. : Criminal No.: 11-
HYUN-JIN YANG : Title 18, United States Code,
Sections 371, 1028A, 1349,
and 2

I N F O R M A T I O N

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

COUNT ONE

(Conspiracy to Unlawfully Produce Identity Documents
and False Identification Documents)

Introduction

1. At all times relevant to this Information:
 - a. A criminal enterprise operated in Bergen County, New Jersey and elsewhere that engaged in identity theft and fraud (hereinafter the "Criminal Enterprise").
 - b. Co-Conspirator S.H.P., an individual not named as a defendant herein, was the leader of the Criminal Enterprise.
 - c. Defendant HYUN-JIN YANG, a resident of Bergen County, New Jersey, was the second-in-command of the Criminal Enterprise.
 - d. Financial institutions provided members of the public with banking and financial services, including establishing check and savings accounts and issuing credit and

debit cards, lines of credit and loans, and various companies and retail stores issued card cards to customers (hereinafter collectively the "Corporate Victims").

Overview of the Criminal Enterprise

Fraudulently Obtaining, Selling, and Producing Genuine and Counterfeit Identity Documents

2. The Criminal Enterprise fraudulently obtained and sold social security cards to customers (hereinafter "Customer" or "Customers"). These social security cards began with the prefix "586," which prefix the United States government typically used on social security cards issued to individuals, usually from China, who worked in American territories. The Criminal Enterprise and its Customers used the "586" social security cards either to obtain genuine but fraudulently issued identity documents, such as identity cards and driver's licenses, or produce counterfeit driver's licenses (hereinafter collectively the "Fraudulent Identity" or "Fraudulent Identities").

The Fraudulent Credit Build-Up Phase

3. After providing the Fraudulent Identity to the Customer, the Criminal Enterprise engaged in the fraudulent "build up" of the credit score associated with the identity. This "credit build up" was accomplished by taking the Fraudulent Identity and attaching it to other co-conspirators' credit card accounts (hereinafter the "Build Up Teams"). By attaching the Fraudulent Identity to these credit card accounts, the Fraudulent

Identity obtained a perfect or near perfect credit score and established a credit history. The Criminal Enterprise charged the Customer a fee of between approximately \$5,000 and \$7,000 for the Fraudulent Identity and the corresponding credit build up. The Corporate Victims relied on these credit scores and histories when deciding whether or not to issue credit cards or loans to prospective applicants and to ensure the bona fides of applicants.

Credit Card Bust-Out ("Kkang") and Bank Fraud ("Check Jobs")

4. Thereafter, the Criminal Enterprise directed, coached, and assisted the Customers to use the Fraudulent Identities to open bank accounts (hereinafter the "Fraudulent Bank Accounts") and apply for credit cards and loans.

Credit Card Bust Out ("Kkang")

5. To obtain cash, the Criminal Enterprise charged or "swiped" the fraudulently obtained credit cards through credit card terminals possessed by wholly fictitious shell companies or other merchants (hereinafter "Collusive Merchants"). After the funds from these charges were electronically wired into bank accounts controlled by the Collusive Merchants, the cash was withdrawn and shared among the various co-conspirators, including the Customers. In other instances, members of the Criminal Enterprise, together with the Customers, used the fraudulently obtained credit cards to purchase high-end merchandise or gift cards. After making these charges, the Criminal Enterprise used

Fraudulent Bank Accounts to make payments toward these credit card charges. These payments, however, were sham payments made with insufficient funds. After the Corporate Victims received these payments but before discovering the fraudulent nature of the payments, the Corporate Victims credited the credit card accounts, thereby allowing members of the Criminal Enterprise to make additional charges on these fraudulently obtained credit cards. Members of the Criminal Enterprise referred to this practice as "kkang."

Check Jobs

6. The Criminal Enterprise also profited through bank fraud. Members of the Criminal Enterprise wrote hundreds of worthless checks. These bogus checks were drawn on Fraudulent Bank Accounts and then mailed to other co-conspirators. These co-conspirators, who often were in other states with different time zones than New Jersey, then deposited these worthless checks into other Fraudulent Bank Accounts. Thereafter, members of the Criminal Enterprise located in Bergen County, New Jersey and elsewhere, withdrew money from these accounts before the banks determined that the checks were fraudulent. Members of the Criminal Enterprise referred to this practice as "check jobs."

The Conspiracy

7. From in or about mid-2008 through on or about September 15, 2010, in Bergen County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendant

HYUN-JIN YANG

knowingly and intentionally conspired and agreed with Co-Conspirator S.H.P. and others to commit an offense against the United States, namely, unlawfully producing identification documents and false identification document in and affecting interstate commerce, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1028(a)(1) and 1028(c)(3)(A).

Object of the Conspiracy

8. The object of the conspiracy was for defendant HYUN-JIN YANG, Co-Conspirator S.H.P., and their co-conspirators to unlawfully produce (a) genuine but fraudulently issued identification cards and driver's licenses from various states; and (b) counterfeit driver's licenses.

Manner and Means of the Conspiracy

9. It was part of the conspiracy that Co-Conspirator S.H.P. recruited Customers by advertising in Korean newspapers.

10. It was further part of the conspiracy that Co-Conspirator S.H.P. and defendant HYUN-JIN YANG obtained and sold "586" social security cards to Customers.

11. It was further part of the conspiracy that members of the Criminal Enterprise escorted hundreds of Customers to various states to fraudulently obtain identification cards and driver's licenses using the "586" social security cards and other fraudulent documents.

12. It was further part of the conspiracy that Co-Conspirator S.H.P. and defendant HYUN-JIN YANG procured from various fraudulent document makers counterfeit driver's licenses and sold them to the Customers.

Overt Acts

13. In furtherance of the conspiracy and in order to effect the objects thereof, defendant HYUN-JIN YANG and her co-conspirators committed and caused to be committed the following overt acts, among others, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere:

a. On or about January 12, 2009, defendant HYUN-JIN YANG traveled from Bergen County, New Jersey to Chicago, Illinois, and fraudulently obtained an Illinois identification card in the name of H.H.X., an actual person (hereinafter the "H.H.X. Identity").

b. On or about January 26, 2009, defendant HYUN-JIN YANG received approximately \$3,500 in cash for the purchase of an Illinois identification and driver's license from a person she believed was a Customer.

c. On or about May 7, 2010, defendant HYUN-JIN YANG received approximately \$7,000 in cash for the purchase of a counterfeit Nevada driver's license from a person she believed was a Customer.

d. On or about July 14, 2010, defendant HYUN-JIN YANG possessed a counterfeit New York driver's license that had been produced for a person she believed was a Customer.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code,
Section 371.

COUNT TWO
(Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud Affecting
Financial Institutions and Bank Fraud)

1. The allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 6 and 8 through 13 of Count One of this Information are hereby realleged as if fully set forth herein.

2. At all times relevant to Count Two of this Information, each bank referred to in this Information was a "financial institution," as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 20.

The Conspiracy

3. From in or about mid-2008 through on or about September 15, 2010, in Bergen County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendant

HYUN-JIN YANG

knowingly and intentionally conspired and agreed with S.H.P. and others to:

a. devise a scheme and artifice to defraud the Corporate Victims, and to obtain money and property, by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and for the purpose of executing the scheme and artifice to defraud, to transmit and cause to be transmitted, by means of wire communication in interstate and foreign commerce, certain writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds, affecting financial institutions, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343; and

b. execute a scheme and artifice to defraud financial institutions, and to obtain money, funds, and assets owned by and under the custody and control thereof, by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344.

Object of the Conspiracy

4. The object of the conspiracy was for defendant HYUN-JIN YANG, Co-Conspirator S.H.P., and their co-conspirators to enrich themselves by fraudulently obtaining in excess of \$4 million from the Corporate Victims to which they were not entitled.

Manner and Means of the Conspiracy

5. It was part of the conspiracy that after the Customers obtained their Fraudulent Identities through the Criminal Enterprise, Co-Conspirator S.H.P. and defendant HYUN-JIN YANG paid cash to the Build Up Teams to fraudulently build the credit scores and credit histories related to the Fraudulent Identities.

6. It was further part of the conspiracy that Co-Conspirator S.H.P. and defendant HYUN-JIN YANG directed and assisted their Customers to use their Fraudulent Identities to obtain credit cards, lines of credit, and automobiles and other loans, and to establish the Fraudulent Bank Accounts.

7. It was further part of the conspiracy that Co-Conspirator S.H.P., defendant HYUN-JIN YANG, and their co-conspirators profited by engaging in k Kang, as described in Paragraphs 4 and 5 above of Count One.

8. It was further part of the conspiracy that Co-Conspirator S.H.P., defendant HYUN-JIN YANG, and their co-conspirators profited by engaging in check jobs, as described in Paragraph 6 above of Count One.

Overt Acts

9. In furtherance of the conspiracy and in order to effect the objects thereof, defendant HYUN-JIN YANG and her co-conspirators committed and caused to be committed the following overt acts, among others, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere:

a. In or about April 2009, defendant HYUN-JIN YANG used the H.H.X Identity to fraudulently obtain a Macy's credit card.

b. On or about May 12, 2009, defendant HYUN-JIN YANG used a fraudulently issued Macy's credit card, in the name of H.H.X, to charge approximately \$4,789 through a Collusive Merchant.

c. On or about June 4, 2009, defendant HYUN-JIN YANG escorted a Customer into a bank located in Bergen County New Jersey to establish a Fraudulent Bank Account.

d. On or about September 5, 2009, defendant HYUN-JIN YANG, using a fraudulently obtained credit card in the name of Y.L., an actual person, purchased six cases of Johnnie Walker liquor, costing approximately \$3,170.77.

e. On or about September 25, 2009, defendant HYUN-JIN YANG paid approximately \$7,283, representing the proceeds of credit card fraud, to a person she believed was a Customer.

f. On or about November 5, 2009, defendant HYUN-JIN YANG created a fictitious utility bill on a computer to assist a Customer fraudulently open a bank account.

g. On or about January 28, 2010, defendant HYUN-JIN YANG deposited a worthless check, drawn on a Fraudulent Bank Account, into the bank account of another co-conspirator.

h. On or about August 19, 2010, defendant HYUN-JIN YANG directed a person she believed to be a Customer to use a Fraudulent Identity to open bank accounts.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.

COUNT THREE
(Aggravated Identity Theft)

1. The allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 6 and 8 through 13 of Count One and Paragraphs 2 and 4 through 9 of Count Two of this Information are hereby realleged as if fully set forth herein.

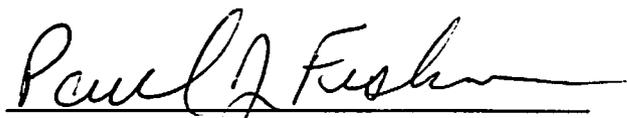
The Charge

2. From in or about mid-2008 through on or about September 15, 2010, in Bergen County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendant

HYUN-JIN YANG

knowingly transferred, possessed, and used, without lawful authority, the means of identification of other persons, namely, H.H.X. and Y.L., during and in relation to violations of federal law, namely, credit card fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1029), wire fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1343), and bank fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1344).

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028A and Section 2.



PAUL J. FISHMAN
United States Attorney