

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SHERMAN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

MOSES MOREIRA

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§
§

Case No. 4:19CR

Judge

316
Jordan
FILED

DEC 11 2019

Clerk, U.S. District Court
Texas Eastern

INDICTMENT

THE UNITED STATES GRAND JURY CHARGES:

Count One

Violation: 18 U.S.C. § 1343 (Wire
Fraud)

Introduction

At all times material to this Indictment:

1. Defendant Moses Moreira (“Moreira”) was an individual residing in the Eastern District of Texas.

The Scheme to Defraud

2. From in or about April 2017, and continuing until on or about November 20, 2019, in the Eastern District of Texas and elsewhere, Moreira knowingly and willfully devised and intended to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud individuals to obtain money, funds, assets, and property owned by or under the custody and control of these individuals by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, false and fraudulent

representations, and false and fraudulent promises, and for the purpose of executing this scheme, Moreira transmitted and caused to be transmitted by way of wire communications, in interstate commerce, writings, signs, signals, and pictures, and acted with specific intent to defraud.

Manner and Means of the Scheme to Defraud

It was part of the scheme and artifice that:

3. Moreira, aided and abetted by individuals known and unknown to the Grand Jury, would target victims using online platforms and would feign romantic interest with the intent of obtaining money from these victims. Generally, the victims would communicate online with an individual or multiple individuals operating under false identities. After a period of romancing via online messaging, texts, and sometimes phone calls, many of which contained false statements, representations, and promises, the alleged love interest would request money from the victims under false pretexts in order to assist with some sort of emergency as falsely represented by the love interest. Because the unwitting victim would believe that the online love interest was in trouble, the victim would then send the requested money to bank accounts controlled by Moreira.

Moreira's Business and Associated Bank Accounts

4. For the purpose of executing the scheme, Moreira created a business called "Volane Executive Services & Autos" (hereinafter, "Volane"). On or about November 30, 2018, Moreira filed an "Assumed Name Records - Certificate of Ownership for Unincorporated Business of Profession" related to Volane in the official county records in

Denton County, Texas, in the Eastern District of Texas. Moreira signed the form as the “owner” of Volane and listed his address as his residence in Carrollton, Texas, which address was located in the Eastern District of Texas.

5. During the course of the scheme, on or about December 10, 2018, Moreira opened an Independent Bank account with number ending in 8298 at the bank branch located at 16000 Dallas Parkway, Suite 125, Dallas, Texas. The account was opened in the name of “Moses Moreira DBA Volane Executive Service & Auto” with the listed address of Moreira’s residence in Carrollton, Texas, in the Eastern District of Texas.

An Example of the Fraudulent Conduct

6. Beginning in or around August 2018, an individual residing in California (hereinafter, “Female Victim 1” or “FV1”) began communicating online with an individual purporting to be “Gary Logan Touchstone.” FV1 communicated frequently with “Touchstone” over the next several months via online chat, text message, Google Hangouts, and email.

7. Touchstone represented to FV1 that he was a pilot for Turkish Airlines and did pilot work for private clients as well. At one point, Touchstone claimed that he was in Russia and had damaged a plane that needed immediate repair. Touchstone explained to FV1 that he could not leave Russia without the plane being repaired and asked FV1 to send money for the repairs to an aviation repair firm that was contracted by Touchstone to make the repairs.

8. Touchstone requested that FV1 send a \$100,000 cashier's check be sent to a repair firm called "Volane Executive Services & Autos." On or about December 13, 2018, FV1 secured a \$100,000 cashier's check drawn on a BNY Mellon New Jersey account, payable to "Volane Executive Service & Auto Attn Moses Moreira" in Carrollton, Texas, in the Eastern District of Texas. On or about December 17, 2018, at an Independent Bank branch location in Texas, Moreira deposited this \$100,000 cashier's check into the Independent Bank account with number ending in 8298.

Use of the Fraudulent Proceeds

9. After receiving funds from the victims by virtue of the scheme to defraud, Moreira spent a portion of the fraud proceeds on personal purchases. For instance, on or about April 4, 2019, Moreira purchased a Mercedes-Benz GLE43 AMG by using \$40,000 in cash proceeds of the fraud scheme as a down payment for the vehicle, and taking out a loan for the remaining cost of the Mercedes, and further making false representations about his employment to qualify for the car loan.

10. In addition to his personal use, Moreira converted a portion of the victims' deposited funds into cashier's checks made out to automobile auctions, automobile salvage businesses, and international shipping companies, and provided these checks to the various businesses. In paying these companies, Moreira transformed the proceeds of the fraudulent scheme into salvaged vehicles that were then shipped out of the United States, including to Nigeria.

Execution of the Scheme to Defraud

11. On or about the date set forth below, in Carrollton, Texas, in the Eastern District of Texas and elsewhere, defendant Moreira, for the purpose of executing the scheme described above, knowingly transmitted and caused to be transmitted by means of wire communications in interstate commerce the writings, signs, and signals, described below, resulting in money being fraudulently deposited into an account controlled by Moreira:

Count	Date (On or About)	Description of Interstate Wire Transmission
One	December 17, 2018	Interstate wire transmission caused by Moreira during deposit of FV1's \$100,000 cashier's check, drawn on a BNY Mellon New Jersey account, into Independent Bank account with number ending in 8298, controlled by Moreira

12. From in or about April 2017 to on or about November 20, 2019, in execution of his scheme to defraud as described above, approximately 80 victims sent money to bank accounts controlled by Moreira. As a result of Moreira's fraudulent conduct, these victims lost approximately \$2,500,000.

In violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343.

Count Two

Violation: 8 U.S.C. § 1325(c) (Marriage Fraud)

13. On or about August 10, 2017, the defendant, Moses Moreira, an alien in the United States, did knowingly and unlawfully enter into marriage with a United States citizen for the purpose of evading a provision of the immigration laws of the United States, and in or around December 2017, did cause to be submitted, from the Eastern District of Texas, an Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status (Form I-485) on the basis of the fraudulent marriage.

In violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1325(c).

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SEEK CRIMINAL FORFEITURE

1. The allegations contained in Counts One and Two of this Indictment are hereby realleged and incorporated by reference for the purpose of alleging forfeitures pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

2. Upon convictions of the offense in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 set forth in Count One of this Indictment, the defendant, **Moses Moreira**, shall forfeit to the United States of America, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the offenses, and any property that was involved in or facilitated any of the offenses, including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. 2014 Freightliner Cascadia tractor trailer - VIN 3AKJGLD58ESFX3662
- b. 2014 Freightliner Cascadia tractor trailer - VIN 3AKJGLD55ESFX3845
- c. 2017 Mercedes-Benz GLE43 AMG – VIN 4JGED6EB2HA064596
- d. Comerica Bank account with number ending in 2270
- e. BB&T account with number ending in 3439
- f. First National Bank of Omaha account with number ending in 6584
- g. AccessBank account with number ending in 4883
- h. Woodforest National Bank account with number ending in 2883

- i. Luxury watches found in Moreira's possession; and
 - j. Cash from victims found in Moreira's possession.
3. If any of the property described above, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:
- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
 - b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
 - c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
 - d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
 - e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty,

the United States of America shall be entitled to forfeiture of substitute property pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

A TRUE BILL



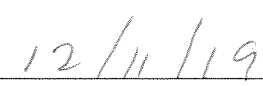
GRAND JURY FOREPERSON

JOSEPH D. BROWN
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY



ANAND VARADARAJAN
Assistant United States Attorney

THOMAS E. GIBSON
Assistant United States Attorney



Date

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NOTICE OF PENALTY

Count One

Violation: 18 U.S.C. § 1343
(Wire Fraud)

Penalty: Not more than twenty years imprisonment, a fine not to exceed
\$250,000, or both; supervised release of not more than three years.

Special
Assessment: \$100.00

Count Two

Violation: 8 U.S.C. § 1325(c)
(Marriage Fraud)

Penalty: Not more than five years imprisonment, a fine not to exceed
\$250,000, or both; supervised release of not more than three years.

Special
Assessment: \$100.00