
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	CRIMINAL COMPLAINT
	:	
v.	:	Hon. Michael A. Hammer, U.S.M.J.
	:	
ANTONIO RIVERA	:	Mag. No. 23-10166
a/k/a Hagie	:	

I, Matthew Barile, the undersigned complainant being duly sworn, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

SEE ATTACHMENT A

I further state that I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

SEE ATTACHMENT B

/s/ Matthew Barile

Matthew Barile, Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Special Agent Matthew Barile attested to this Complaint by telephone pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. Pro. 4.1(b)(2)(A) on April 20, 2023 in the District of New Jersey

Honorable Michael A. Hammer
United States Magistrate Judge

/s/ Hon. Michael A. Hammer

Signature of Judicial Officer

ATTACHMENT A

COUNT ONE

(Interference with Commerce by Robbery)

On or about February 8, 2023, in Passaic County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant,

**ANTONIO RIVERA,
a/k/a “Hagie,”**

did knowingly and willfully obstruct, delay, and affect commerce, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951, and the movement of articles and commodities in such commerce, by robbery, in that the defendant did unlawfully take and obtain property by means of actual and threatened force, violence, and fear of injury, immediate and future, to the person and property of another.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a) and Section 2.

COUNT TWO

(Attempted Interference with Commerce by Robbery)

On or about April 5, 2023, in Passaic County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant,

**ANTONIO RIVERA,
a/k/a “Hagie,”**

did knowingly and willfully attempt to obstruct, delay, and affect, commerce, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951, and the movement of articles and commodities in such commerce, by robbery, in that the defendant did unlawfully attempt to take and obtain property by means of actual and threatened force, violence, and fear of injury, immediate and future, to the person and property of another.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a) and Section 2.

COUNT THREE

(Using, Carrying, and Discharging a Firearm
During and in Relation to a Crime of Violence)

On or about February 8, 2023, in Passaic County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant,

ANTONIO RIVERA,
a/k/a “Hagie,”

during and in relation to a crime of violence for which the defendant may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, namely, the Interference with Commerce by Robbery charged in Count One of this Complaint, did knowingly use and carry a firearm, and, in furtherance of this crime, did knowingly possess a firearm, and said firearm was discharged.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A)(iii).

ATTACHMENT B

I, Matthew Barile, am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I am fully familiar with the facts set forth herein based on my own investigation, my conversations with other law enforcement officers, and my review of reports, documents, and video recordings of the evidence. Because this Complaint is being submitted for a limited purpose, I have not set forth each and every fact that I know concerning this investigation. Where statements of others are related herein, they are related in substance and part. Where I assert that an event took place on a particular date, I am asserting that it took place on or about the date alleged.

Background of the Investigation

1. Law enforcement, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), is investigating Antonio Rivera, a/k/a "Hagie," ("RIVERA") for his commission of at least two armed robberies of pharmacies (the "Robberies") in Paterson and Passaic, New Jersey.

2. As set forth below, RIVERA committed an armed robbery of a pharmacy in Paterson on or about February 8, 2023 ("Robbery-1") and attempted to commit an armed robbery of a pharmacy in Passaic on or about April 5, 2023 ("Robbery-2"). In both Robbery-1 and Robbery-2, a suspect ("the Suspect"), later identified as RIVERA, wore a mask and was described by victims as an approximately five-foot six-inch Hispanic male. In both Robbery-1 and Robbery-2, RIVERA fired a gun, and ballistics evidence shows that the same gun was used in both Robbery-1 and Robbery-2.

The February 8, 2023 Armed Robbery ("Robbery-1")

3. According to video surveillance and witness accounts, on or about February 8, 2023 at approximately 5:36 p.m., the Suspect, later identified as RIVERA, entered a pharmacy on Market Street in Paterson, New Jersey ("Pharmacy-1"). The Suspect was wearing a black hoodie, black pants, black sneakers, a black ski mask, and carrying a black backpack with distinct "NIKE" white lettering.

4. According to video surveillance and witness accounts, the Suspect entered Pharmacy-1, brandished a handgun, discharged one round, and demanded Percocet, Morphine, and Oxycodone pills, all Schedule II controlled substances. An employee of Pharmacy-1 ("Victim-1") grabbed medication bottles and placed them inside the Suspect's backpack. The Suspect then fired another round. Another employee of Pharmacy-1 ("Victim-2") gave the Suspect cash from the cash register. The Suspect attempted to grab a gold necklace from Victim-2's neck and then ran out of Pharmacy-1.

The April 5, 2023 Armed Robbery (“Robbery-2”)

5. According to video surveillance, on or about April 5, 2023 at approximately 5:38 p.m., the Suspect, later identified as RIVERA, exited the front passenger side of a black vehicle near a pharmacy on Passaic Street in Passaic, New Jersey (“Pharmacy-2”). The Suspect was wearing a white hoodie, a dark jacket, black pants, and carrying a black BAPE backpack. Video surveillance shows the Suspect unmasked and carrying, in addition to the backpack, what appears to be a cell phone. A screen shot from the video surveillance is displayed here:



6. According to video surveillance and witness accounts, the Suspect wore a black ski mask, entered Pharmacy-2, raised a handgun to a Pharmacy-2 employee’s head (“Victim-3”) and demanded that Victim-3 put money from the cash register in a bag. When Victim-3 refused, the Suspect went to the back of the pharmacy and demanded “pills” while pointing the firearm at other Pharmacy-2 employees. The Suspect fired a shot that struck a file cabinet. The Suspect then fled Pharmacy-2 through the rear.

7. According to video surveillance, at approximately 5:46 p.m., the Suspect entered the front passenger side of the same black vehicle that had dropped him off, which then drove away.

The Continued Investigation

8. Law enforcement analyzed the shell casings that were discharged from the firearm in Robbery-1 and Robbery-2 and found that the same firearm was used in both.

9. Multiple witnesses who know RIVERA personally identified the screenshot above as being RIVERA. One of these witnesses is RIVERA’s former parole officer.

10. Further investigation revealed a current cellphone number for RIVERA ("the cellphone"). Investigation showed that the cellphone was associated with a mobile payment service, in the name of "Antonio Rivera" that was opened in or around February 2023.

11. According to information obtained pursuant to search warrants, the cell phone connected to a cellular tower located at the same address as Robbery-1 just minutes before or during Robbery-1 and then a second time just minutes after or during Robbery-1. The information from the search warrant also revealed that Rivera's cellphone connected to a cellular tower located approximately 115 meters from Robbery-2 just minutes before or during Robbery-2.

12. On or about April 17, 2023 at approximately 7:38 p.m., law enforcement observed RIVERA standing outside on the street in Paterson, New Jersey. At approximately 7:41 p.m., law enforcement observed RIVERA answering a cellphone call. At approximately the same time, law enforcement received location information pursuant to one of the above-described search warrants confirming that Rivera's cellphone had received a phone call and that the cell phone was located at approximately the same location where RIVERA was observed.

13. During the investigation, law enforcement learned that some medications at Pharmacy-1 and Pharmacy-2 were manufactured outside the State of New Jersey and thus traveled in interstate commerce prior to Robbery-1 and Robbery-2.