

FILED by **KS** D.C.  
  
Nov 2, 2021  
  
ANGELA E. NOBLE  
CLERK U.S. DIST. CT.  
S.D. OF FLA. - MIAMI

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
**21-60299-CR-SINGHAL/SNOW**  
CASE NO: \_\_\_\_\_

18 U.S.C. § 371  
18 U.S.C. § 1956(h)  
18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1)

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

vs.

**MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY,**  
a/k/a "Mohamad Hussein Deiry,"  
a/k/a "Syria Abu Hussein Maher,"  
a/k/a "Mr. Magd," and  
**SAMER RAYYA,**  
a/k/a "Samir Rayya,"  
a/k/a "Maher Samer Abu Hussein,"

**Defendants.**

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**INDICTMENT**

The Grand Jury charges:

**GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

At all times material to this Indictment:

**The Defendants and Co-Conspirators**

1. The defendant **MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY** was a citizen of Syria, working as an arms dealer and broker. **DEIRY** was a part owner of BLACK SHIELD LTD. ("BLACK SHIELD").

2. The defendant **SAMER RAYYA** was a citizen of Lebanon, working as an arms dealer and broker. **RAYYA** was the Chief Executive Officer and a part owner of BLACK SHIELD.

3. BLACK SHIELD was incorporated under the laws of Iraq in 2015. Its principal place of business was in Erbil, Iraq.

4. Co-conspirator Tal Meerovitch was a citizen of Uzbekistan and Israel, working as an arms dealer and broker. Meerovitch was the senior business partner of Co-conspirator 1, who was the principal of Company 1, located in Pompano Beach, Florida. Meerovitch was a principal of DM Management Group, Ltd. (“DM Management”), located in Israel.

5. Through BLACK SHIELD, DM Management and Company 1, **MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY, SAMER RAYYA**, Tal Meerovitch, Co-conspirator 1, and others engaged in the business of exporting firearms, ammunition and other defense articles from the United States to foreign countries.

#### The Statutes and Regulations

6. In furtherance of the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States, the Arms Export Control Act (“the Act”), Title 22, United States Code, Section 2778, authorizes the President of the United States to control the export of “defense articles” from the United States. The Act required that defense articles may only be exported after obtaining a license in accordance with the Act and regulations issued under it. 22 U.S.C. § 2778(b)(2).

7. The regulations promulgated pursuant to the Act, known as the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (“ITAR”), defined exporting to include, among other things, the “[s]ending or taking of a defense article out of the United States in any manner.” 22 C.F.R. § 120.17.

8. The ITAR defined a defense article as any item on the United States Munitions List (“USML”). The USML sets forth 21 categories of defense articles subject to export licensing

controls by the United States Department of State's Directorate of Defense Trade Controls ("DDTC"). 22 C.F.R. § 121.1.

9. No defense article could be exported or otherwise transferred from the United States to a foreign country without prior DDTC authorization. 22 C.F.R. §§ 123.1(a), 127.1(a)(1). The ITAR also prohibited reexports, transfers, transshipments, and diversions from foreign countries of previously-exported defense articles without United States Department of State authorization. 22 C.F.R. § 123.9(a).

10. Under the ITAR, it was the policy of the United States to deny licenses or other approvals for the export of defense articles to Iraq, with exceptions for non-lethal military equipment and lethal military equipment required by the Government of Iraq or coalition forces, and to the Republic of Sudan ("Sudan"), with certain exceptions pertaining to United Nations and other humanitarian purposes. 22 C.F.R. §§ 126.1(f) (Iraq) & (v) (Sudan).

#### **The Defense Articles**

11. The following equipment, all of which was designated on the USML in Category I(a), II(a), or III(a), could not be exported from the United States without prior DDTC authorization:

- a. Twenty-three millimeter (23mm) anti-aircraft ammunition;
- b. Bushmaster 40mm Grenade Launcher;
- c. FN SCAR-L CQC (5.56x45mm) assault rifle;
- d. FN SCAR-H CQC (7.62 x 51mm) assault rifle;
- e. FNH 5.7 x 28mm green tip ammunition; and
- f. HK MR762A1 LRP ii (7.62 x 51mm) assault rifle.

12. **SAMER RAYYA, MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY, BLACK SHIELD**, and their co-conspirators did not obtain DDTC authorization to export these defense articles.

**COUNT 1**  
**Conspiracy to Export Defense Articles**  
**(18 U.S.C. § 371)**

1. Paragraphs 1 through 12 of the General Allegations are restated and re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.

2. From in or around April of 2016, and continuing until at least on or about November 15, 2016, in Broward County, in the Southern District of Florida, and elsewhere, the defendants,

**MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY,**  
**a/k/a “Mohamad Hussein Deiry,”**  
**a/k/a “Syria Abu Hussein Maher,”**  
**a/k/a “Mr. Magd,” and**  
**SAMER RAYYA,**  
**a/k/a “Samir Rayya,”**  
**a/k/a “Maher Samer Abu Hussein,”**

did knowingly and willfully combine, conspire, confederate and agree with each other, Tal Meerovitch, Co-conspirator 1, and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to commit offenses against the United States, namely, to knowingly and willfully export and cause the export of defense articles from the United States to a place outside thereof, without having first obtained a license or written approval from DDTC, in violation of Title 22, United States Code, Section 2778, and Title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 121.1, 123.1, and 127.1.

**Purpose of the Conspiracy**

3. It was the purpose of the conspiracy for the defendants and their co-conspirators to obtain and purchase in the United States defense articles and to illegally export the defense articles to a place outside the United States, without obtaining the necessary authorization from the DDTC.

**Manner and Means**

The manner and means by which the defendants and their co-conspirators sought to accomplish the purpose and object of the conspiracy included, among others, the following:

4. **MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY, SAMER RAYYA**, and their co-conspirators attempted to obtain 23mm anti-aircraft ammunition and other firearms and ammunition in the United States with the intent to export them to Sudan and Iraq without obtaining the required licenses and approvals.

5. At the request of **MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY** and **SAMER RAYYA**, Tal Meerovitch, Co-conspirator 1, and other co-conspirators attempted to arrange the export of the 23mm anti-aircraft ammunition to Sudan and Iraq by shipping the ammunition through intermediate countries.

6. **MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY, SAMER RAYYA**, and their co-conspirators transferred a portion of the payment for the 23mm anti-aircraft ammunition through parties outside of the United States to an account held by Company 1 in the United States.

7. **MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY, SAMER RAYYA**, and their co-conspirators undertook these activities willfully and without obtaining the required licenses and approvals from DDTC.

**Overt Acts**

In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect its purpose and object, at least one of the co-conspirators committed, or caused to be committed, in the Southern District of Florida, and elsewhere, at least one of the following overt acts:

1. On or about May 8, 2016, Co-conspirator 1 called Individual 1, seeking to purchase one hundred thousand (100,000) rounds of 23mm anti-aircraft ammunition in “America,” for export to a location outside the United States.

2. On or about August 17, 2016, Meerovitch sent an email to Co-conspirator 1, attaching an amendment to a purchase agreement between DM Management Group, Ltd., and BLACK SHIELD, for the purchase of 500,000 rounds of “23x152 ammunition for 23mm cannon,” for a price of \$4,000,000 with an advance payment of \$100,000.

3. On or about August 23, 2016, **MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY** caused a wire transfer totaling \$100,000 to be sent from a bank in West Africa into a Company 1 bank account in Florida as a deposit for the purchase of the 23mm anti-aircraft ammunition.

4. On or about September 16, 2016, Co-conspirator 1 sent an encrypted message containing pictures of two end user certificates for seven hundred fifty thousand (750,000) rounds of 23mm anti-aircraft ammunition to Individual 1, falsely identifying the end user in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (also known as “TRNC” or “North Cyprus”).

5. On or about September 21, 2016, Representative 1 traveled to the United States from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to inspect the 23mm anti-aircraft ammunition on behalf of **MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY** and **SAMER RAYYA**.

6. On or about October 5, 2016, Co-conspirator 1 sent Individual 1 an email containing two end user certificates for five hundred thousand (500,000) units of 23mm anti-aircraft ammunition for export to Sudan.

7. On or about October 6, 2016, **SAMER RAYYA** sent **MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY** an email containing a copy of a sales contract between Company 1 and BLACK SHIELD for the purchase of 150,000 rounds of 23mm anti-aircraft ammunition to be delivered to Sudan.

8. On or about October 12, 2016, **MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY** sent **SAMER RAYYA** an email that instructed **RAYYA** to “please sign stamp and return” a copy of the sales contract between Company 1 and BLACK SHIELD, for the sale of one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) rounds of 23mm anti-aircraft ammunition to a company in Iraq for the sum of \$1,200,000, including a deposit of \$800,000.

9. On or about October 12, 2016, **SAMER RAYYA** sent **MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY** an email containing a copy of the sales contract between Company 1 and BLACK SHIELD for the sale of one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) rounds of 23mm anti-aircraft ammunition to a company in Iraq for the sum of \$1,200,000, including a deposit of \$800,000. **RAYYA** had signed the contract as “CEO” of BLACK SHIELD, and Co-conspirator 1 had signed the contract on behalf of Company 1.

10. On or about October 18, 2016, **SAMER RAYYA** sent an email to Tal Meerovitch stating, “We are more than willing and enthusiastic to conclude this deal in order to move to bigger deals. We are looking for long term relationship so, we will do our best to finalize all in Thursday. Please bare with us till then.”

11. On or about October 19, 2016, **MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY** sent **SAMER RAYYA** an email with four single spaced pages listing different types of firearms and ammunition, including “Launcher Grenade (40m),” “FN Scar CQC, Tan (5.56),” “FN Scar H CQC, Tan (7.62),” “Ammunition (5.7) SS198LF Lead Free Round (60000 bullets),” and “MR 7.62A1 (Long Rifle Package II).”

12. On or about October 25, 2016, **SAMER RAYYA** sent an email to a representative of a Florida company (“Company 2”), which contained several attachments. One attachment was a “Letter of Intent,” which stated that “We, Black Shield, a company registered in Kurdistan-Iraq is licensed and authorized from the ministry of interior to trade and import arms and ammunition to governmental bodies.” The Letter of Intent requested a “quotation in form of official Commercial Offer for selected items . . . to purchase and import to Kurdistan.” The letter further stated that “the required weapons will be exclusively used by specific End Customer whom the End User will be issued by him, in our case it is the ministry of interior.” The letter was signed by **RAYYA** as “CEO” of BLACK SHIELD. Also attached to the email were four single spaced pages listing different types of firearms and ammunition, including “Launcher Grenade (40m),” “FN Scar CQC, Tan (5.56),” “FN Scar H CQC, Tan (7.62),” “Ammunition (5.7) SS198LF Lead Free Round (60000 bullets),” and “MR 7.62A1 (Long Rifle Package II).”

13. On or about November 8, 2016, **MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY** sent an encrypted electronic message to Co-conspirator 1 containing a photograph of the passport of Representative 2.

14. On or about November 11, 2016, **MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY** sent an encrypted electronic message to Co-conspirator 1 containing the travel itinerary for Representative 2.



15. On or about November 13, 2016, on behalf of DEIRY, Representative 2 arrived at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York on a flight from Moscow, Russia.

16. On or about November 14, 2016, **SAMER RAYYA** sent an email to **MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY**, which contained a forwarded email **RAYYA** had received from Company 2. In the email sent to **RAYYA**, the Company 2 representative stated that Company 2 would “not be able to proceed with a quotation” for a sale of firearms and ammunition to **BLACK SHIELD** because the “State Department is not approving licenses allowing distributors to ship into Iraq.”

17. On or about November 15, 2016, **MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY** sent Representative 2 an encrypted electronic message containing a copy of the contract between Company 1 and **BLACK SHIELD** for the purchase of 150,000 units of 23mm anti-aircraft ammunition.

18. On or about November 15, 2016, **SAMER RAYYA** sent an email to Co-conspirator 1, which contained several attachments. The attachments included four single spaced pages listing different types of firearms and ammunition, including “Launcher Grenade (40m),” “FN Scar CQC, Tan (5.56),” “FN Scar H CQC, Tan (7.62),” “Ammunition (5.7) SS198LF Lead Free Round (60000 bullets),” and “MR 7.62A1 (Long Rifle Package II).”

19. On or about November 15, 2016, Co-conspirator 1 sent **MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY** an encrypted electronic message in reference to a November 15, 2016 email sent by **SAMER RAYYA** to Co-conspirator 1 containing a list of types of firearms and ammunition. In the message to **DEIRY**, Co-conspirator 1 stated that the “The list you sent is not an issue.” Co-conspirator 1 and **DEIRY** agreed that the requested firearms and ammunition would be shipped through Guatemala and not directly to Iraq.

20. On or about November 15, 2016, Representative 2 met with Co-conspirator 1 and Individual 1 to discuss the inspection and exportation of the 23-mm anti-aircraft ammunition.

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

**COUNT 2**  
**Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering**  
**(18 U.S.C. § 1956(h))**

Beginning as early as in or around April of 2016, the exact date being unknown to the Grand Jury, and continuing through on or about November 15, 2016, in Broward County, in the Southern District of Florida, and elsewhere, the defendants,

**MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY,**  
**a/k/a “Mohamad Hussein Deiry,”**  
**a/k/a “Syria Abu Hussein Maher,”**  
**a/k/a “Mr. Magd,” and**  
**SAMER RAYYA,**  
**a/k/a “Samir Rayya,”**  
**a/k/a “Maher Samer Abu Hussein,”**

did knowingly and voluntarily combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to transmit and transfer funds to a place in the United States from and through a place outside the United States, with the intent to promote the carrying on of a specified unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(2)(A); all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).

It is further alleged that the specified unlawful activity is conspiracy to illegally export defense articles without a license by violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, as alleged in Count 1 of this Indictment.

**FORFEITURE ALLEGATIONS**

1. The allegations of this Indictment are hereby re-alleged and by this reference fully incorporated herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to the United States of America of property in which any of the defendants, **MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY** and **SAMER RAYYA**, have an interest.

2. Upon conviction of a violation of Title 22, United States Code, Section 2778, a conspiracy to commit such offense, as alleged in this Indictment, the defendant shall forfeit to the United States (1) any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to such violation, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c) and (2) any arms and munitions of war, other articles or commodities that are intended to be or are being or have been exported or removed from the United States in violation of law, and any vessel, vehicle and aircraft containing the same which has been or is being used in exporting or attempting to export the same, pursuant to Title 22, United States Code, Section 401, as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

3. Upon conviction of a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956, as alleged in this Indictment, the defendant shall forfeit to the United States any property, real or personal, involved in such offense, or any property traceable to such property, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1)(A).

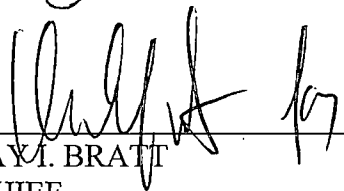
All pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981(a)(1)(C) and 982(a)(1)(A), Title 22, United States Code, Section 401, and the procedures set forth at Title 21, United States Code,

Section 853, as made applicable by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b)(2).

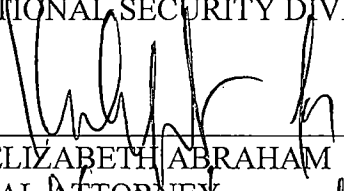
A TRUE BILL

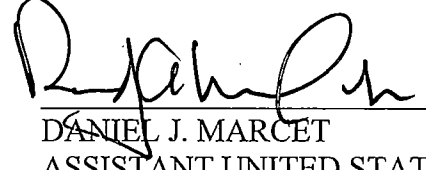
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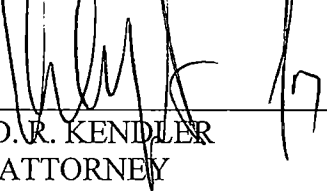
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JUAN ANTONIO GONZALEZ  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JAVI BRATT  
CHIEF  
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND EXPORT  
CONTROL SECTION  
NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RANDY A. HUMMEL  
SENIOR LITIGATION COUNSEL

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
R. ELIZABETH ABRAHAM  
TRIAL ATTORNEY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DANIEL J. MARCET  
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
THEA D.R. KENDLER  
TRIAL ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

v.  
MOHAMAD MAJD DEIRY, et al.

**CERTIFICATE OF TRIAL ATTORNEY\***  
**Superseding Case Information:**

Defendants/

Court Division: (Select One)

- Miami  Key West  FTL
- WPB  FTP

New defendant(s)  Yes  No

Number of new defendants \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of counts \_\_\_\_\_

1. I have carefully considered the allegations of the indictment, the number of defendants, the number of probable witnesses and the legal complexities of the Indictment/Information attached hereto.
2. I am aware that the information supplied on this statement will be relied upon by the Judges of this Court in setting their calendars and scheduling criminal trials under the mandate of the Speedy Trial Act, Title 28 U.S.C. Section 3161.

3. Interpreter: (Yes or No) **No** \_\_\_\_\_

List language and/or dialect \_\_\_\_\_

4. This case will take 12 days for the parties to try.

5. Please check appropriate category and type of offense listed below:

- (Check only one)
- I 0 to 5 days
  - II 6 to 10 days
  - III 11 to 20 days
  - IV 21 to 60 days
  - V 61 days and over

- (Check only one)
- Petty
  - Minor
  - Misdemeanor
  - Felony

6. Has this case previously been filed in this District Court? (Yes or No) **No** \_\_\_\_\_

If yes: Judge \_\_\_\_\_ Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

(Attach copy of dispositive order)

Has a complaint been filed in this matter? (Yes or No) **No** \_\_\_\_\_

If yes: Magistrate Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

Related miscellaneous numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant(s) in federal custody as of 16-60339-CR-MORENO, 19-60292-CR-COOKE

Defendant(s) in state custody as of \_\_\_\_\_

Rule 20 from the District of \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a potential death penalty case? (Yes or No) **No** \_\_\_\_\_

7. Does this case originate from a matter pending in the Central Region of the U.S. Attorney's Office prior to August 9, 2013 (Mag. Judge Alicia O. Valle)? (Yes or No) **No** \_\_\_\_\_
8. Does this case originate from a matter pending in the Northern Region of the U.S. Attorney's Office prior to August 8, 2014 (Mag. Judge Shaniek Maynard)? (Yes or No) **No** \_\_\_\_\_
9. Does this case originate from a matter pending in the Central Region of the U.S. Attorney's Office prior to October 3, 2019 (Mag. Judge Jared Strauss)? (Yes or No) **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_

*Daniel J. Marcet*

DANIEL J. MARCET

Assistant United States Attorney

FLA Bar No. 0114104

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

PENALTY SHEET

Defendant's Name: MOHAMAD MAGD DEIRY

Case No: \_\_\_\_\_

Count #: 1

Conspiracy to Export Defense Articles from the United States

Title 18, United States Code, Section 371

**\*Max. Penalty: Five Years' Imprisonment**

Count #: 2

Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h)

**\*Max. Penalty: Twenty Years' Imprisonment**

**\*Refers only to possible term of incarceration, does not include possible fines, restitution, special assessments, parole terms, or forfeitures that may be applicable.**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

PENALTY SHEET

Defendant's Name: SAMER RAYYA

Case No: \_\_\_\_\_

Count #: 1

Conspiracy to Export Defense Articles from the United States

Title 18, United States Code, Section 371

**\*Max. Penalty:** Five Years' Imprisonment

Count #: 2

Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h)

**\*Max. Penalty:** Twenty Years' Imprisonment

**\*Refers only to possible term of incarceration, does not include possible fines, restitution, special assessments, parole terms, or forfeitures that may be applicable.**