FILED
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
9/4/2026
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
BY: AH DEPUTY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

June 2026 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, v. LUIS BENÍTEZ ALCÁNTARA, aka "The Judge," [redacted] Defendants.	2:25-cr-882(B)-DOC SECOND SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT [18 U.S.C. § 3: Accessory After the Fact]

The Grand Jury Charges:

INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

At times relevant to this Second Superseding Indictment:

1. Defendant LUIS BENÍTEZ ALCÁNTARA, also known as ("aka") "The Judge," was a district judge in Mexico City, Mexico.

2. [redacted]

[redacted]

3. [redacted]

4. Andrew Clark was the second-in-command of a billion-dollar transnational criminal organization that was the largest supplier of cocaine to Canada and operated in other countries, including, but not limited to, Colombia, Mexico, and the United States.

5. On or about September 17, 2024, a federal grand jury in the Central District of California returned a first superseding indictment in United States v. Ryan James Wedding, et al., 2:24-cr-00369(A)-SPG, charging Clark with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846 (Counts 1 and 2); conspiracy to export a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 963 (Count 3); continuing criminal enterprise, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 848(a), (b) (Count 5); murder in connection with a continuing criminal enterprise and drug crime, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 848(e)(1)(A) (Counts 7, 8, 10, and 11); and attempt to commit murder in connection with a continuing criminal enterprise and drug crime,

in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846, 848(e)(1)(A) (Count 9).

6. On or about October 8, 2024, Clark was provisionally arrested in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico on the Wedding, et al. first superseding indictment.

7. On or about October 9, 2024, Clark appeared in Mexican federal court and was ordered detained pending extradition to the United States.

8. Sometime after on or about October 9, 2024, Clark appeared in Mexican federal court before defendant BENÍTEZ, the district judge overseeing his extradition proceedings, at which point the charges and the facts underlying the charges in the first superseding indictment were read aloud in English and Spanish.

9. On or about October 17, 2024, the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California (the "USAO") publicly announced the charges against Clark.

10. On or about November 27, 2024, the USAO formally requested that Clark be extradited from Mexico to the United States to face prosecution.

11. Starting no later than in or around November 2024, and continuing through in or around February 2025, Clark sent approximately $2.75 million USD in small increments to intermediaries, [redacted], for the purpose of securing his release from Mexican prison.

12. Starting no later than in or around December 2024 and continuing through in or around January 2025, [redacted], Clark negotiated a deal to pay defendant BENÍTEZ approximately $2 million USD cash to order Clark released.

13. On or about February 24, 2025, the same day that he received the full $2 million-bribe payment, defendant BENÍTEZ granted Clark bond and ordered him released.

14. The Grand Jury realleges these introductory allegations in Counts 1 through 13 of this Second Superseding Indictment.

COUNT ONE

[18 U.S.C. § 3]

[ALL DEFENDANTS]

15. Beginning no later than on or about October 8, 2024, and continuing to on or about February 27, 2025, in Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, within the Central District of California, in the countries of Mexico, Colombia, and Canada, and elsewhere, defendants BENÍTEZ, [redacted], and [redacted], knowing that an offense against the United States had been committed, namely, conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846, received, relieved, comforted and assisted the offender, Clark, in order to hinder or prevent his apprehension, trial and punishment.

COUNT TWO

[18 U.S.C. § 3]

[ALL DEFENDANTS]

16. Beginning no later than on or about October 8, 2024, and continuing to on or about February 27, 2025, in Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, within the Central District of California, in the countries of Mexico, Colombia, and Canada, and elsewhere, defendants BENÍTEZ, [redacted], and [redacted], knowing that an offense against the United States had been committed, namely, conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine and a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846, received, relieved, comforted and assisted the offender, Clark, in order to hinder or prevent his apprehension, trial and punishment.

COUNT THREE

[18 U.S.C. § 3]

[ALL DEFENDANTS]

17. Beginning no later than on or about October 8, 2024, and continuing to on or about February 27, 2025, in Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, within the Central District of California, in the countries of Mexico, Colombia, and Canada, and elsewhere, defendants BENÍTEZ, [redacted], and [redacted], knowing that an offense against the United States had been committed, namely, conspiracy to export a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 963, received, relieved, comforted and assisted the offender, Clark, in order to hinder or prevent his apprehension, trial and punishment.

COUNT FOUR

[18 U.S.C. § 3]

[ALL DEFENDANTS]

18. Beginning no later than on or about October 8, 2024, and continuing to on or about February 27, 2025, in Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, within the Central District of California, in the countries of Mexico, Colombia, and Canada, and elsewhere, defendants BENÍTEZ, [redacted], and [redacted], knowing that an offense against the United States had been committed, namely, continuing criminal enterprise, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 848(a), (b), received, relieved, comforted and assisted the offender, Clark, in order to hinder or prevent his apprehension, trial and punishment.

COUNT FIVE

[18 U.S.C. § 3]

[ALL DEFENDANTS]

19. Beginning no later than on or about October 8, 2024, and continuing to on or about February 27, 2025, in Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, within the Central District of California, in the countries of Mexico, Colombia, and Canada, and elsewhere, defendants BENÍTEZ, [redacted], and [redacted], knowing that an offense against the United States had been committed, namely, murder in connection with a continuing criminal enterprise and drug crime, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 848(e)(1)(A), received, relieved, comforted and assisted the offender, Clark, in order to hinder or prevent his apprehension, trial and punishment.

COUNT SIX

[18 U.S.C. § 3]

[ALL DEFENDANTS]

20. Beginning no later than on or about October 8, 2024, and continuing to on or about February 27, 2025, in Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, within the Central District of California, in the countries of Mexico, Colombia, and Canada, and elsewhere, defendants BENÍTEZ, [redacted], and [redacted], knowing that an offense against the United States had been committed, namely, murder in connection with a continuing criminal enterprise and drug crime, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 848(e)(1)(A), received, relieved, comforted and assisted the offender, Clark, in order to hinder or prevent his apprehension, trial and punishment.

COUNT SEVEN

[18 U.S.C. § 3]

[ALL DEFENDANTS]

21. Beginning no later than on or about October 8, 2024, and continuing to on or about February 27, 2025, in Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, within the Central District of California, in the countries of Mexico, Colombia, and Canada, and elsewhere, defendants BENÍTEZ, [redacted], and [redacted], knowing that an offense against the United States had been committed, namely, attempt to commit murder in connection with a continuing criminal enterprise and drug crime, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846, 848(e)(1)(A), received, relieved, comforted and assisted the offender, Clark, in order to hinder or prevent his apprehension, trial and punishment.

COUNT EIGHT

[18 U.S.C. § 3]

[ALL DEFENDANTS]

22. Beginning no later than on or about October 8, 2024, and continuing to on or about February 27, 2025, in Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, within the Central District of California, in the countries of Mexico, Colombia, and Canada, and elsewhere, defendants BENÍTEZ, [redacted], and [redacted], knowing that an offense against the United States had been committed, namely, murder in connection with a continuing criminal enterprise and drug crime, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 848(e)(1)(A), received, relieved, comforted and assisted the offender, Clark, in order to hinder or prevent his apprehension, trial and punishment.

COUNT NINE

[18 U.S.C. § 3]

[ALL DEFENDANTS]

23. Beginning no later than on or about October 8, 2024, and continuing to on or about February 27, 2025, in Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, within the Central District of California, in the countries of Mexico, Colombia, and Canada, and elsewhere, defendants BENÍTEZ, [redacted], and [redacted], knowing that an offense against the United States had been committed, namely, murder in connection with a continuing criminal enterprise and drug crime, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 848(e)(1)(A), received, relieved,

///

comforted and assisted the offender, Clark, in order to hinder or prevent his apprehension, trial and punishment.

A TRUE BILL

/S/
Foreperson

TODD BLANCHE
Attorney General

BILAL A. ESSAYLI
First Assistant United States Attornev



JENNIFER L. WAIER
Chief Assistant United States Attorney &
Chief, Criminal Division

J. MARK CHILDS
Assistant United States Attorney
Chief, Transnational Organized Crime Section

LYNDSI ALLSOP
Assistant United States Attorney
Deputy Chief, Transnational Organized Crime Section

JOSHUA J. LEE
Assistant United States Attorney
Transnational Organized Crime Section