



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

September 2019 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

ANUJ MAHENDRABHAI PATEL,
aka "Mike" and
"Indio,"
ELMER MIRANDA BARRIOS,
aka "Elver DeLeon,"
"Luis Fernando,"
"Joe Rodriguez,"
"Welbin Raul Mejia,"
"Raul Cordava,"
"Victor Efrain DePaz,"
"Guilmar Escobar Guzman,"
"Ramirez Hamashiach," and
"Gil Rodolfo," and
WILLIAM MARGARITO BARRIOS,

Defendants.

ED CR No.5:20-cr-00162-ODW

I N D I C T M E N T

[18 U.S.C. § 1349: Conspiracy to
Commit Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud;
8 U.S.C. § 1326(a): Illegal Alien
Found in the United States
Following Deportation; 18 U.S.C.
§ 981(a)(1)(C), 28 U.S.C.
§ 2461(c): Criminal Forfeiture]

///
///
///

1 The Grand Jury charges:

2 COUNT ONE

3 [18 U.S.C. § 1349]

4 [ALL DEFENDANTS]

5 A. OBJECTS OF THE CONSPIRACY

6 1. Beginning in or before April 2019, and continuing until at
7 least March 6, 2020, in Riverside and Los Angeles Counties, within
8 the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendants ANUJ
9 MAHENDRABHAI PATEL, also known as ("aka") "Mike" and "Indio," ELMER
10 MIRANDA BARRIOS, aka "Elver DeLeon," "Luis Fernando," "Joe
11 Rodriguez," "Welbin Raul Mejia," "Raul Cordava," "Victor Efrain
12 DePaz," "Guilmar Escobar Guzman," "Ramirez Hamashiach," and "Gil
13 Rodolfo" ("MIRANDA"), and WILLIAM MARGARITO BARRIOS ("BARRIOS"),
14 knowingly and with intent to defraud, conspired with others known and
15 unknown to the Grand Jury to commit mail fraud, in violation of Title
16 18, United States Code, Section 1341, and wire fraud, in violation of
17 Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

18 B. MANNER AND MEANS OF THE CONSPIRACY

19 2. The object of the conspiracy was carried out, and to be
20 carried out, in substance, as follows:

21 a. Co-conspirators induced the victims to send money to
22 defendants PATEL, MIRANDA, and BARRIOS by falsely representing, among
23 other things, that:

24 i. The co-conspirators were federal government
25 employees or law enforcement officers.

26 ii. The victims' identities and assets were in
27 jeopardy and the victims needed to protect their assets by sending
28 cash to the addresses the co-conspirators provided and needed to

1 address the parcels filled with cash to aliases used by defendants
2 MIRANDA and BARRIOS, and other co-conspirators.

3 iii. Courts had issued warrants for the victims to be
4 arrested and in order to resolve the pending warrants, the victims
5 needed to send cash to the addresses the co-conspirators provided and
6 needed to address the parcels filled with cash to aliases used by
7 defendants MIRANDA and BARRIOS, and other co-conspirators.

8 iv. The victims were not permitted to discuss the co-
9 conspirators' calls with anyone because the calls were made as part
10 of ongoing government investigations.

11 b. Co-conspirators, in connection with and through the
12 conduct of telemarketing, victimized vulnerable persons over the age
13 of 55 and targeted vulnerable persons over the age of 55.

14 c. In furtherance of their false representations that the
15 co-coconspirators were federal government employees or law
16 enforcement officers, co-conspirators provided victims with
17 fraudulent case numbers, fraudulent badge numbers, and photographs of
18 fraudulent law enforcement credentials, and co-conspirators used
19 caller identification fabrication technology to make it appear as
20 though they were calling from legitimate government phone numbers.

21 d. Defendants PATEL, MIRANDA, and BARRIOS, and other co-
22 conspirators, engaged in the following fraudulent and deceptive acts,
23 practices, devices, and made the following material omissions:

24 i. Defendants MIRANDA and BARRIOS, and other co-
25 schemers, would use fraudulent identification documents to retrieve
26 parcels filled with cash sent by the victims.

27

28

1 ii. Defendants MIRANDA and BARRIOS, and other co-
2 conspirators who received parcels would then deliver the parcels
3 filled with cash to defendant PATEL.

4 iii. Defendant PATEL would keep a portion of the cash
5 from the parcels and share proceeds from the conspiracy with
6 defendants MIRANDA and BARRIOS, and other co-conspirators.

7 C. OVERT ACTS

8 3. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to accomplish its
9 objects, on or about the following dates, defendants PATEL, MIRANDA,
10 and BARRIOS, and other co-conspirators known and unknown to the Grand
11 Jury, committed, and willfully caused others to commit various overt
12 acts within the Central District of California, and elsewhere,
13 including, but not limited to, the following:

14 Overt Act No. 1: On or about July 16, 2019, defendant MIRANDA
15 used a fraudulent identification card in the name of "Elver De Leon"
16 to obtain FedEx parcel with tracking number 7884 6275 6524 containing
17 approximately \$15,000 from R.W., a 72-year-old victim, addressed to
18 "Elver De Leon" in Murrieta, California.

19 Overt Act No. 2: On or about July 16, 2019, defendant PATEL
20 tracked the delivery status of the FedEx parcel with tracking number
21 7884 6275 6524 on the FedEx website using his cellphone.

22 Overt Act No. 3: On or about August 22, 2019, defendant
23 MIRANDA used a fraudulent identification card in the name of "Welbin
24 Raul Mejia" to obtain a FedEx parcel with tracking number 7892 8491
25 6716 containing approximately \$11,000 from C.A., a 70-year-old
26 victim, addressed to "Welbin Raul Mejia" in Murrieta, California.

27
28

1 Overt Act No. 4: On or about August 22, 2019, defendant PATEL
2 tracked the delivery status of the FedEx parcel with tracking number
3 7892 8491 6716 on the FedEx website using his cellphone.

4 Overt Act No. 5: On or about August 23, 2019, defendant
5 MIRANDA used a fraudulent identification card in the name of "Luis
6 Fernando" and attempted to retrieve a FedEx parcel with tracking
7 number 7893 0501 7400 containing approximately \$11,000 from victim
8 C.A., a 70-year-old victim, addressed to "Luis Fernando" in Murrieta,
9 California.

10 Overt Act No. 6: On or about August 23, 2019, defendant PATEL
11 tracked the delivery status of the FedEx parcel with tracking number
12 7893 0501 7400 on the FedEx website using his cellphone.

13 Overt Act No. 7: On or about August 23, 2019, defendant
14 MIRANDA used a fraudulent identification card in the name of "Welbin
15 Raul Mejia" and attempted to retrieve a FedEx parcel with tracking
16 number 7893 2060 4782 containing approximately \$19,500 from M.T., a
17 69-year-old victim, addressed to "Welbin Raul Mejia" in Murrieta,
18 California.

19 Overt Act No. 8: On or about August 23, 2019, defendant
20 MIRANDA used a fraudulent identification card in the name of "Luis
21 Fernando" and attempted to retrieve a FedEx parcel with tracking
22 number 4903 1892 5475 containing approximately \$10,000 from D.R., a
23 71-year-old victim, addressed to "Louis Fernando" in Murrieta,
24 California.

25 Overt Act No. 9: On or about August 23, 2019, defendant PATEL
26 tracked the delivery status of the FedEx parcel with tracking number
27 4903 1892 5475 on the FedEx website using his cellphone.

28

1 Overt Act No. 10: On or about August 23, 2019, in an effort to
2 protect co-conspirators, defendant MIRANDA lied during an interview
3 with law enforcement officers and stated he delivered the parcels he
4 retrieved to a park in Lake Elsinore, California, and had never met
5 the co-conspirators with whom he was working.

6 Overt Act No. 11: On or about September 19, 2019, defendant
7 MIRANDA used a fraudulent identification card in the name of "Joe
8 Rodriguez" to retrieve a FedEx parcel with tracking number 7898 8467
9 5194 containing approximately \$60,000 from J.L., a 71-year-old
10 victim, addressed to "Joe Rodriguez" in Covina, California.

11 Overt Act No. 12: On or about September 19, 2019, in an effort
12 to protect co-conspirators, defendant MIRANDA lied during an
13 interview with law enforcement officers and stated he delivered the
14 parcels he retrieved to a tree in Lake Elsinore, California, and had
15 never met the co-conspirators with whom he was working.

16 Overt Act No. 13: On or about October 18, 2019, defendant
17 BARRIOS possessed a FedEx parcel with tracking number 7803 3758 3918,
18 which was sent containing approximately \$106,920 from M.F., a 66-
19 year-old victim, addressed to "Raul Ismael Lopez" in Riverside,
20 California.

21 Overt Act No. 14: On or about October 18, 2019, defendant
22 BARRIOS possessed three FedEx tracking numbers in addition to the
23 FedEx parcel with tracking number 7803 3758 3918.

24 Overt Act No. 15: On or about October 18, 2019, defendant
25 PATEL tracked the delivery status of the FedEx parcel with tracking
26 number 7803 3758 3918 on the FedEx website using his cellphone.

27 Overt Act No. 16: On or about October 18, 2019, in an effort
28 to protect co-conspirators, defendant BARRIOS lied during an

1 interview with law enforcement officers and stated he delivered
2 parcels he retrieved to a park in Lake Elsinore, California, and had
3 never met co-conspirators with whom he was working.

4 Overt Act No. 17: On or about November 16, 2019, Co-
5 conspirator A used a fraudulent identification card in the name of
6 "Marvin Cruz Lopez" and attempted to retrieve a FedEx parcel with
7 tracking number 7780 6140 0536 containing approximately \$15,000 from
8 P.D., a 73-year-old victim, addressed to "Marvin Cruz Lopez" in
9 Escondido, California.

10 Overt Act No. 18: On or about November 16, 2019, Co-
11 conspirator A used a fraudulent identification card in the name of
12 "Marvin Cruz Lopez" and attempted to retrieve a FedEx parcel with
13 tracking number 7780 7145 2100 containing approximately \$40,000 from
14 G.M., a 73-year-old victim, addressed to "Marvin Cruz Lopez" in
15 Escondido, California.

16 Overt Act No. 19: On or about November 16, 2019, defendant
17 PATEL tracked the delivery status of the FedEx parcel with tracking
18 number 7780 7145 2100 on the FedEx website using his cellphone.

19 Overt Act No. 20: On or about December 6, 2019, Co-conspirator
20 B obtained a FedEx parcel with tracking number 7786 0499 4100, which
21 was sent containing approximately \$49,000 and 98 gift cards from
22 E.M., a 65-year-old victim, addressed to "Megan Coronado" in Lake
23 Elsinore, California.

24 Overt Act No. 21: On or about December 6, 2019, defendant
25 PATEL tracked the delivery status of the FedEx parcel with tracking
26 number 7786 0499 4100 on the FedEx website using his cellphone.

27 Overt Act No. 22: On or about December 6, 2019, defendant
28 MIRANDA transported Co-conspirator B to the liquor store defendant

1 PATEL operated, and Co-conspirator B delivered the FedEx parcel with
2 tracking number 7786 0499 4100 to defendant PATEL.

3 Overt Act No. 23: On or about December 17, 2019, defendant
4 PATEL received a UPS parcel with tracking number 1Z 8FF 661 24 9049
5 8897 containing approximately \$9,000 from W.H., a 65-year-old victim,
6 addressed to "Alexis Duran" in Oceanside, California.

7 Overt Act No. 24: On or about December 17, 2019, defendant
8 PATEL received a FedEx parcel with tracking number 7789 7620 4934
9 containing approximately \$60,000 from M.S., a 50-year-old victim,
10 addressed to "Nicole Paton" in Carlsbad, California.

11 Overt Act No. 25: On or about December 19, 2019, defendant
12 PATEL received a UPS parcel with tracking number 1Z 309 0Y5 29 8922
13 4453 containing approximately \$45,000 from A.F., a 70-year-old
14 victim, addressed to "Shawna Hayes" in Hemet, California.

15 Overt Act No. 26: On or about January 9, 2020, defendant PATEL
16 received a UPS parcel with tracking number 1Z A4X 573 24 7779 5010
17 containing at least \$10,000 from T.R., a 44-year-old victim,
18 addressed to "Ashley Green" in Corona, California.

19 Overt Act No. 27: On or about February 12, 2020, defendant
20 MIRANDA received a FedEx parcel with tracking number 3902 9058 1990
21 containing approximately \$30,000 from R.G., a 73-year-old victim,
22 addressed to "Raul Cordava" in Lake Elsinore, California.

23 Overt Act No. 28: On or about February 13, 2020, defendant
24 PATEL received a UPS parcel with tracking number 1Z 58F 489 24 1381
25 3224 containing \$10,000 from G.L., an 82-year-old victim, addressed
26 to "Victor Efrain DePaz" in Hemet, California.

27 Overt Act No. 29: On or about February 14, 2020, defendant
28 PATEL received a UPS parcel with tracking number 1Z 377 E96 24 7831

1 1648 containing approximately \$10,000 from G.L., an 82-year-old
2 victim, addressed to "Victor Efrain DePaz" in Hemet, California.

3 Overt Act No. 30: On or about February 25, 2020, defendant
4 PATEL received a FedEx parcel with tracking number 3906 2664 2267
5 containing approximately \$40,000 from victim J.S. addressed to "Alex
6 Lopez" in Lake Elsinore, California.

7 Overt Act No. 31: On or about March 6, 2020, defendant PATEL
8 possessed three fraudulent Arizona Driver's Licenses bearing
9 defendant MIRANDA's image but in the names "Guilmar Escobar Guzman,"
10 "Ramirez Hamashiach," and "Gil Rodolfo."

11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

COUNT TWO

[8 U.S.C. § 1326(a)]

[DEFENDANT BARRIOS]

On or about June 21, 2019, defendant WILLIAM MARGARITO BARRIOS, an alien, who had been officially deported and removed from the United States on or about November 29, 2006, was found in Orange County, within the Central District of California, after knowingly and voluntarily re-entering and remaining in the United States without having obtained permission from the Attorney General or his designated successor, the Secretary for Homeland Security, to reapply for admission to the United States following deportation and removal.

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

[18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c)]

1. Pursuant to Rule 32.2 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, notice is hereby given that the United States of America will seek forfeiture as part of any sentence, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), in the event of any defendant's conviction of Count One of this Indictment.

2. The defendants, if so convicted, shall forfeit to the United States of America the following:

(a) All right, title, and interest in any and all property, real or personal, constituting, or derived from, any proceeds traceable to any of the offenses, including but not limited to:

i. \$29,853 in U.S. Currency seized from defendant PATEL's residence in Lake Elsinore, CA on March 6, 2020;

ii. 4 Money Orders totaling \$2,650 seized from defendant PATEL's residence in Lake Elsinore, CA on March 6, 2020;

(b) To the extent such property is not available for forfeiture, a sum of money equal to the total value of the property described in subparagraph (a).

3. Pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), the defendants, if so convicted, shall forfeit substitute property, up to the value of the property described in the preceding paragraph if, as the result of any act or omission of the defendants, the property described in the preceding paragraph or any portion thereof (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; (b) has been

1 transferred, sold to, or deposited with a third party; (c) has been
2 placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court; (d) has been
3 substantially diminished in value; or (e) has been commingled with
4 other property that cannot be divided without difficulty.

5
6 A TRUE BILL

7
8 151
9 Foreperson

10 NICOLA T. HANNA
11 United States Attorney

12 *Brandon Fox*

13 BRANDON S. FOX
14 Assistant United States Attorney
15 Chief, Criminal Division

16 JOSEPH B. WIDMAN
17 Assistant United States Attorney
18 Chief, Riverside Branch Office

19 PETER DAHLQUIST
20 Assistant United States Attorney
21 Riverside Branch Office
22
23
24
25
26
27
28