

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**Holding a Criminal Term  
Grand Jury Sworn in on November 16, 2009**

<b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,</b>	:	<b>CRIMINAL NO. _____</b>
	:	
<b>Plaintiff,</b>	:	<b>GRAND JURY ORIGINAL</b>
	:	
	:	<b>UNDER SEAL</b>
	:	
	:	<b>VIOLATIONS:</b>
<b>v.</b>	:	
	:	<b>18 U.S.C. § 371 (Count 1);</b>
	:	<b>Conspiracy to Violate the Foreign</b>
	:	<b>Corrupt Practices Act</b>
	:	
<b>HELMIE ASHIBLIE,</b>	:	<b>15 U.S.C. § 78dd-2 (Counts 2-5);</b>
	:	<b>Foreign Corrupt Practices Act Violations</b>
<b>Defendant.</b>	:	
	:	<b>18 U.S.C. § 1956(h) (Count 6);</b>
	:	<b>Conspiracy to Commit Money</b>
	:	<b>Laundering</b>
	:	
	:	<b>18 U.S.C. § 2;</b>
	:	<b>Aiding and Abetting and</b>
	:	<b>Causing an Act to be Done</b>
	:	
	:	<b>18 U.S.C. § 982;</b>
	:	<b>Forfeiture</b>
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	:	
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**INDICTMENT**

The Grand Jury charges that at all times material to this Indictment:

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977, as amended, 15 U.S.C. §§ 78dd-1, *et seq.* (“FCPA”), prohibited certain classes of persons and entities from making payments to foreign government officials to assist in obtaining or retaining business. Specifically, the FCPA prohibited the willful use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce corruptly in furtherance of an offer, payment, promise to pay, or authorization of the payment of money or anything of value to any person, while knowing that all or a portion of such money or thing of value would be offered, given or promised, directly or indirectly, to a foreign official for the purpose of assisting in the obtaining or retaining of business.

2. HELMIE ASHIBLIE (“ASHIBLIE”) was a citizen of the United States and, as such, was a “domestic concern” as that term was defined in the FCPA. 15 U.S.C. § 78dd-2(h)(1). ASHIBLIE was Vice President and Founder of Company A, a company that was based in Woodbridge, Virginia, and was in the business of supplying tactical bags and other security-related articles for law enforcement agencies and governments worldwide. As a company that maintained its principal place of business in the United States, and that was organized under the laws of a state of the United States, Company A was a “domestic concern” as that term was defined in the FCPA. 15 U.S.C. § 78dd-2(h)(1).

3. Individual 1 was the former Vice President of International Sales for a company that manufactured and supplied law enforcement and military equipment to law enforcement and military customers around the world.

4. Undercover Agent 1 (“UA-1”) was an undercover Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) posing as a representative of the Minister of Defense of a country in Africa (“Country A”).

5. Undercover Agent 2 (“UA-2”) was an undercover Special Agent with the FBI posing as a procurement officer for Country A’s Ministry of Defense who purportedly reported directly to the Minister of Defense.

**COUNT 1**  
**(Conspiracy to Violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act)**

6. Paragraphs 1 through 5 of the Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

7. From in or about August 2009, through in or about December 2009, in the District of Columbia, and elsewhere, the defendant,

HELMIE ASHIBLIE,

and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, did unlawfully, willfully, and knowingly conspire, confederate and agree together and with each other and others to commit offenses against the United States, that is, to willfully use the mails and means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce corruptly in furtherance of an offer, payment, promise to pay, and the authorization of the payment of any money, and offer, give, promise to give, and authorizing of the giving of anything of value to any foreign official and any person, while knowing that a portion of such money or thing of value will be offered, given, promised, directly or indirectly, to any foreign official for purposes of: (i) influencing the acts and decisions of such foreign official in his official capacity; (ii) inducing such foreign official to do and omit to do acts in violation of the lawful duties of such official; (iii) securing an improper advantage; and (iv) inducing such foreign official to use his influence with a foreign government and instrumentalities thereof to affect and influence acts and decisions of such government and instrumentalities thereof, in order to assist ASHIBLIE, Company A, and their conspirators in obtaining and retaining business, in violation of the FCPA, Title 15, United States Code, Section 78dd-2(a).

Object of the Conspiracy

8. The object of the conspiracy was for HELMIE ASHIBLIE and his conspirators to unlawfully enrich themselves by making corrupt payments and attempting to make corrupt payments to foreign officials for the purpose of obtaining and retaining lucrative business opportunities.

Manner and Means of the Conspiracy

9. The manner and means by which HELMIE ASHIBLIE and his conspirators accomplished the object of the conspiracy included, but were not limited to, the following:

a. ASHIBLIE would participate in meetings and have discussions in which Individual 1 said that a friend of his, who was a self-employed sales agent, was tasked by Country A's Minister of Defense with obtaining various defense articles for outfitting Country A's Presidential Guard and that Individual 1 was brokering the deal. In reality, the self-employed sales agent was UA-1.

b. ASHIBLIE would obtain and attempt to obtain business for Company A and himself by making corrupt payments to UA-1 for the stated purpose of UA-1 "consulting" on a sale by Company A to the Ministry of Defense of Country A.

c. ASHIBLIE would agree to pay UA-1 a 20% "commission" in connection with two contracts to sell tactical bags to the Ministry of Defense of Country A, knowing that half of the "commission" was intended to be paid as a bribe to the Minister of Defense of Country A and half was intended to be split between Individual 1 and UA-1 as a fee for their corrupt services.

d. ASHIBLIE would agree to inflate by 20% the true price of the tactical

bags he would sell to the Ministry of Defense of Country A for the purpose of concealing the 20% “commission” being paid to UA-1.

e. ASHIBLIE would agree to create two price quotations, with one quotation representing the true cost of the tactical bags and the second, inflated quotation representing the true cost of the vests plus the 20% “commission.”

f. ASHIBLIE would pay a “commission” into UA-1's bank account in the United States in connection with a “test sale” of goods to the Ministry of Defense of Country A (“Phase One”), knowing that half of the “commission” was intended to be paid outside the United States as a bribe to the Minister of Defense of Country A, for the purposes of obtaining the test sale contract and winning a second, larger contract to supply additional goods to the Ministry of Defense of Country A (“Phase Two”).

g. ASHIBLIE would agree to pay a “commission” to UA-1 in the United States in connection with the Phase Two contract, knowing that approximately half of the “commission” was intended to be paid outside the United States as a bribe to the Minister of Defense of Country A, for the purpose of obtaining the second contract.

Overt Acts

10. Within the District of Columbia, and elsewhere, in furtherance of the above described conspiracy and in order to carry out the object thereof, HELMIE ASHIBLIE and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, committed the following overt acts, among others:

a. On or about August 25, 2009, ASHIBLIE met with Individual 1 at Zaytinya, a restaurant in Washington, D.C. At that meeting, Individual 1 explained that the Country A Presidential Guard “deal” would be worth a total of approximately \$15 million, would involve several suppliers, and would proceed in two phases: Phase One would involve a “test sale” of defense articles for Country A’s Presidential Guard, and Phase Two would involve the sale of a larger quantity of those articles to outfit the rest of the Presidential Guard.

b. On or about August 25, 2009, at the Zaytinya meeting in Washington, D.C., ASHIBLIE agreed to proceed with the Country A deal, after being told that in order to win the Country A business, Company A would need to add a 20% “commission” to the invoices it sent to UA-1 in connection with the Phase One and Phase Two deals, half of which would be paid to Country A’s Minister of Defense and half of which would be kicked back in the form of a commission split between Individual 1 and UA-1 as a fee for their corrupt services. ASHIBLIE further agreed to proceed with the Phase One deal knowing that the purpose of the Phase One deal was to show Country A’s Minister of Defense that the Minister of Defense would personally receive a 10% “commission” on the deal.

c. On or about August 27, 2009, ASHIBLIE caused an email to be sent on behalf of Company A to UA-1 attaching four price quotations in connection with Phase One and Phase Two: the first price quotation contained the true sales price of the tactical bags for Phase

One; the second price quotation contained an inflated sales price for the tactical bags for Phase One, which included the true sales price plus the 20% “commission” that would be used to pay and facilitate the bribe to Country A’s Minister of Defense; the third price quotation contained an inflated sales price for the tactical bags for Phase Two, which included the true sales price plus the 20% “commission” that would be used to pay and facilitate the bribe to Country A’s Minister of Defense for Phase Two.

d. On or about September 1, 2009, ASHIBLIE caused to be sent a wire transfer in the amount of approximately \$2,261 from a bank account purported to be controlled by Country A to a Company A bank account for the purpose of funding the purchase of the tactical bags sold by Company A to Country A’s Ministry of Defense for Phase One of the scheme.

e. On or about September 2, 2009, ASHIBLIE sent an email to UA-1 and Individual 1 confirming receipt of the \$2,261 payment.

f. On or about September 3, 2009, ASHIBLIE wired the 20% “commission” to UA-1’s bank account for the purpose of making the corrupt payment to Country A’s Minister of Defense and paying the commissions to Individual 1 and UA-1 for facilitating the corrupt scheme.

g. On or about September 21, 2009, ASHIBLIE sent an email to Individual 1 stating that Company A had shipped one tactical bag in connection with Phase One to Individual 1’s mailbox in New York City for the purpose of having that tactical bag forwarded to Country A.

h. On or about October 5, 2009, ASHIBLIE met with Individual 1 and UA-2

at Clyde's, a restaurant in Washington, D.C. At that meeting, UA-2 told ASHIBLIE that the Minister of Defense was pleased with the tactical bag sent in Phase One and with the "commission" the Minister of Defense had received. UA-2 also told ASHIBLIE that the Minister of Defense had given his approval to proceed with Phase Two. ASHIBLIE then accepted two copies of the corrupt purchase agreement for Phase Two from UA-2.

i. On or about October 28, 2009, ASHIBLIE sent by U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail from Woodbridge, Virginia, to Washington, D.C., one original copy of the purchase agreement, which had been executed by ASHIBLIE.

j. On or about November 4, 2009, ASHIBLIE sent by Federal Express, a commercial interstate carrier, from Woodbridge, Virginia, to Washington, D.C., thirteen tactical bags for the purpose of having the tactical bags forwarded to Country A.

**(Conspiracy to Violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371)**

**COUNTS 2 - 5**  
**(Foreign Corrupt Practices Act Violations)**

11. Paragraphs 1 through 5 and 8 through 10 of the Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as if set out in full herein.

12. On or about the dates set forth below, in the District of Columbia, and elsewhere, the defendant,

HELMIE ASHIBLIE,

and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, willfully made use of, and aided, abetted, and caused others to make use of, the mails and means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce corruptly in furtherance of an offer, payment, promise to pay, and the authorization of the payment of any money, and offer, gift, promise to give, and authorization of the giving of anything of value to any person, while knowing that all or a portion of such money or thing of value would be offered, given or promised, directly or indirectly, to a foreign official for the purposes of: (i) influencing the acts and decisions of such foreign official in his official capacity; (ii) inducing such foreign official to do and omit to do acts in violation of the lawful duties of such official; (iii) securing an improper advantage; and (iv) inducing such foreign official to use his influence with a foreign government and instrumentalities thereof to affect and influence acts and decisions of such government and instrumentalities thereof, in order to assist ASHIBLIE, Company A, and their conspirators in obtaining and retaining business, in violation of the FCPA, as follows:

Count	On or About Date	Means and Instrumentalities of Interstate Commerce
2	8/25/2009	Travel from outside Washington, D.C., to Washington, D.C., for the purpose of meeting with Individual 1 at Zaytinya to discuss the corrupt Country A deal
3	10/5/2009	Travel from outside Washington, D.C., to Washington, D.C., for the purpose of meeting with Individual 1 and UA-2 at Clyde's to discuss the corrupt Country A deal
4	10/28/2009	U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail from Woodbridge, Virginia, to Washington, D.C., containing one original copy of the corrupt purchase agreement for Phase Two
5	11/4/2009	Federal Express from Woodbridge, Virginia, to Washington, D.C., containing thirteen tactical bags

**(Foreign Corrupt Practices Act Violation and Aiding and Abetting and Causing an Act to be Done, in violation of Title 15, United States Code, Section 78dd-2(a) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2)**

**COUNT 6**  
**(Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering)**

13. Paragraphs 1 through 5 and 8 through 10 of the Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as if set out in full herein.

14. From in or about August 2009, through in or about December 2009, in the District of Columbia, and elsewhere, the defendant,

HELMIE ASHIBLIE,

and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, did willfully, that is, with the intent to further the objects of the conspiracy, and knowingly combine, conspire, and agree with each other and with other persons, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to commit offenses against the United States in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956 and 1957 as follows:

- a. to transport, transmit, and transfer a monetary instrument and funds from a place in the United States to and through a place outside the United States, with the intent to promote the carrying on of specified unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(2)(A);
- b. to conduct and attempt to conduct a financial transaction involving property represented to be the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, or property used to conduct or facilitate specified unlawful activity, with the intent to promote the carrying on of specified unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(3)(A); and
- c. to knowingly engage in a monetary transaction by, through and to a financial institution, affecting interstate and foreign commerce, in criminally derived property of a value greater than \$10,000, such property having been derived from specified unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1957.

It is further alleged that the specified unlawful activity referred to above is a violation of the FCPA, Title 15, United States Code, Section 78dd-2(a).

**(Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h))**

**FORFEITURE**

15. The violations alleged in Counts 1-6 of this Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to the United States of America pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981 and 982(a)(1), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

16. As a result of the FCPA offenses alleged in Counts 1-5 of this Indictment (the “FCPA offenses”), HELMIE ASHIBLIE shall, upon conviction of such offenses, forfeit to the United States all property, real and personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the FCPA offenses, wherever located, and in whatever name held, including, but not limited to a sum of money equal to the amount of proceeds obtained as a result of the FCPA offenses, in violation of Title 15, United States Code, Section 78dd-2(a) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 371. By virtue of the offenses charged in Counts 1-5 of the Indictment, any and all interest that the defendant has in the property constituting, or derived from, proceeds obtained directly or indirectly, as a result of such offenses is vested in the United States and hereby forfeited to the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981, in conjunction with Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

17. As a result of the money laundering offense alleged in Count 6 of this Indictment, HELMIE ASHIBLIE shall forfeit to the United States any property, real or personal, involved in, or traceable to such property involved in money laundering, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956 and 1957, including but not limited to the sum of money

equal to the total amount of property involved in, or traceable to property involved in those violations. By virtue of the commission of the felony offense charged in Count 6 of this Indictment, any and all interest that the defendant has in the property involved in, or traceable to property involved in money laundering is vested in the United States and hereby forfeited to the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1).

18. In the event that any property described above as being subject to forfeiture, as a result of any act or omission by the defendant:

- (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- (b) has been transferred or sold to or deposited with a third person;
- (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;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982, to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of the above described property in paragraph 18(a)-(e).

**(Forfeiture, Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981 and 982(a)(1), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c))**

A TRUE BILL

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FOREPERSON

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
STEVEN A. TYRRELL  
Chief  
Fraud Section, Criminal Division

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
HANK BOND WALTHER  
Assistant Chief  
LAURA N. PERKINS  
Trial Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
CHANNING D. PHILLIPS  
Acting United States Attorney  
In and For the District of Columbia

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
MATTHEW C. SOLOMON  
Assistant United States Attorney