

United States District Court
District of New Jersey

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : **CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**
v. : **Hon. Michael A. Hammer**
SAMUEL MATIAS CRUZ : **Magistrate No. 14-4043 (MAH)**

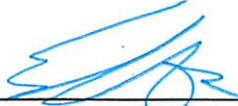
I, Edward Miller, the undersigned complainant being duly sworn, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SEE ATTACHMENT A

I further state that I am a Special Agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"), and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

SEE ATTACHMENT B


continued on the attached page and made a part hereof.


Edward Miller, Special Agent
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms
and Explosives

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence,

May 8, 2014 at
Date

Honorable Michael A. Hammer
United States Magistrate Judge
Name & Title of Judicial Officer

Newark, New Jersey
City and State

Signature of Judicial Officer

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

ATTACHMENT A

Hobbs Act Robbery Conspiracy

Between in or about September 2012, through on or about March 25, 2013, in Mercer and Burlington Counties, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, defendant

SAMUEL MATIAS CRUZ

did knowingly and willfully conspire and agree with others to obstruct, delay, and affect commerce and the movement of articles and commodities in commerce, by robbery, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(b)(1), and to commit and threaten physical violence to persons and property in furtherance thereof.

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

ATTACHMENT B

I, Edward Miller, am a Special Agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"). I have personally participated in this investigation and am aware of the facts and circumstances contained herein based on my own investigation, as well as my review of documents, records, information and evidence provided to me by other law enforcement officers and relevant personnel. Since this Affidavit is submitted for the sole purpose of establishing probable cause to support the issuance of a complaint and arrest warrant, I have not necessarily included each and every fact known by the government concerning this investigation. Where statements of others are related herein, they are related in substance and in part. Where I assert that an event took place on a particular date, I am asserting that it took place on or about the day alleged.

A. Summary of Investigation

1. This application arises from a joint investigation by ATF and various New Jersey state and local law enforcement agencies of a number of armed robberies that took place between September 2012 and March 2013 in Mercer and Burlington Counties, New Jersey. As set forth below, the investigation has revealed that SAMUEL MATIAS CRUZ ("CRUZ") and his co-conspirators have planned and executed a number of violent armed robberies of various commercial establishments in the Trenton, NJ area, including gas stations, restaurants, travel agencies and money-remitting businesses. The investigation of these robberies, which is summarized below, has included (but is not limited to) the review of video surveillance footage, the collection and analysis of cell phone toll records and cell site information, witness interviews, DNA analysis, and the execution of court-authorized search warrants.

B. The Osiris Travel Agency Robbery

2. On September 9, 2012, CRUZ and a co-conspirator ("CC1") robbed a Trenton area commercial establishment known as the Osiris Travel Agency (the "Travel Agency"). The Travel Agency's surveillance camera system captured video footage of the robbery. Upon gaining entry to the Travel Agency, CRUZ pointed a handgun at an employee and demanded all of the money from cash register. CRUZ ultimately absconded with approximately \$900 (U.S.) cash, which represented the commercial proceeds of the Travel Agency. CRUZ then fled the Travel Agency and entered a white S.U.V. driven by CC1, which departed the location.

3. Subsequent investigation, which included witness interviews, video-surveillance footage review, and searches of open source and law enforcement databases, ultimately resulted in the identification of CRUZ as one of the perpetrators of the Travel Agency robbery. Significantly, law enforcement officials have determined that CRUZ matches the same physical characteristics as the perpetrator depicted in the surveillance footage. Of particular note, CRUZ maintains a distinctive tattoo on his left wrist. That tattoo is clearly visible on the surveillance footage.
4. At all times relevant to this Complaint, the Travel Agency was a commercial establishment engaged in selling products that moved in, were transferred in, and affected interstate and foreign commerce.

C. The Sabor Latino Bar Robbery

5. On December 10, 2012, CRUZ and his co-conspirators robbed the Sabor Latino Bar (the "Bar"), located in Trenton, NJ. The Bar's surveillance camera system captured video footage of the robbery. Once inside the Bar, CRUZ and CC1 (previously referred to above), who were wearing dark colored, hooded sweatshirts and ski masks in an attempt to disguise their identities, brandished and pointed firearms at the Bar's patrons and employees. At gunpoint, CRUZ and CC1 utilized plastic zip-tie straps to restrain the five individuals who were then present in the establishment. Thereafter, at gunpoint, CRUZ and CC1 robbed the Bar's cash drawers, ultimately absconding with approximately \$12,000 (U.S.) cash, representing the commercial proceeds of the Bar, as well as approximately \$2,000 in cash and jewelry taken from the Bar's patrons. CRUZ and CC1 then exited the Bar and fled the location in a vehicle driven by a second co-conspirator ("CC2").
6. Subsequent investigation, which included witness interviews, video-surveillance footage review, and searches of open source and law enforcement databases, ultimately resulted in the identification of CRUZ as one of the perpetrators of the Bar robbery. Significantly, law enforcement officials have determined that CRUZ matches the same physical characteristics as one of the perpetrators depicted in the surveillance footage.
7. At all times relevant to this Complaint, the Bar was a commercial establishment engaged in selling food, beverages and other items that moved in, were transferred in, and affected interstate and foreign commerce.

D. The Sunoco Service Station Robbery

8. On December 29, 2012, CRUZ and his co-conspirators robbed the Woodrow Wilson Service Plaza Sunoco Gas Station (the "Sunoco") on the

New Jersey Turnpike, located in Hamilton Township, NJ. The Sunoco's surveillance camera system captured video footage of the robbery. Once inside the Sunoco, two masked, armed perpetrators wearing blue, collared button-up shirts similar to those worn by actual Sunoco employees, assaulted and zip-tied the Sunoco shift manager then on-duty. Despite attempts to spray-paint surveillance cameras in the location, these individuals were subsequently identified as CRUZ and CC2 (previously referred to above). After the shift manager was subdued, CRUZ and CC2 robbed the Sunoco cash drawers and register, ultimately absconding with approximately \$26,000 (U.S.) cash, representing the commercial proceeds of the Sunoco. CRUZ and CC2 fled the Sunoco on foot, and then departed the location in a getaway vehicle parked in close proximity to the scene of the robbery.

9. Subsequent investigation of this incident included the following: a) the discovery of discarded cell phones and clothing utilized during the robbery; b) witness interviews; c) video-surveillance footage review; d) cell phone toll record review; e) searches of open source and law enforcement databases; and f) DNA analysis. From these efforts, law enforcement officials confirmed that CRUZ perpetrated the Sunoco robbery, and that he obtained clothing and firearms from his co-conspirators in order to execute the robbery. Significantly, law enforcement officials have determined that CRUZ matches the same physical characteristics as one of the perpetrators depicted in the surveillance footage. Moreover, laboratory results confirm that CRUZ was a contributor to DNA recovered from a ski mask worn by one of the perpetrators during the Sunoco robbery.
10. At all times relevant to this Complaint, the Sunoco was a commercial establishment engaged in selling gasoline, food, beverages and other items that moved in, were transferred in, and affected interstate and foreign commerce.

E. The Rapido Flores Multiservices Agency Robbery

11. On March 15, 2013, CRUZ and his co-conspirators robbed a Trenton area commercial business establishment called 'The Rapido Flores Multiservices Agency' (the "Agency"). The Agency's surveillance camera system captured video footage of the robbery. Upon gaining entry to the Agency, CRUZ and his accomplice ("CC3") assaulted, zip-tied and robbed the Agency owner at gunpoint, ultimately absconding with approximately \$6,000 (U.S.) cash, which represented the commercial proceeds of the Agency. CRUZ and CC3 then fled the Agency and entered a white S.U.V. driven by CC1.
12. Subsequent investigation of the incident included the following: a) witness interviews; b) video-surveillance footage review; and c) searches of open

source and law enforcement databases. From these efforts, law enforcement officials confirmed that CRUZ perpetrated the Agency robbery. Significantly, CRUZ matched the same physical characteristics as one of the perpetrators depicted in the surveillance footage. As described above, CRUZ maintains a distinctive tattoo on his left wrist. That tattoo is clearly visible on the surveillance footage. Moreover, the image of the tattoo captured during the Agency robbery is a match to the image of the tattoo captured during the Travel Agency robbery referenced in Section B, *supra*.

13. At all times relevant to this Complaint, the Agency was a commercial establishment engaged in money-remitting services and the sale of various goods and other items that moved in, were transferred in, and affected interstate and foreign commerce.