

FILED

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

MAR 16 2015

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

MOLLY C. DWYER, CLERK  
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff - Appellee,

v.

SAFIEH FARD, AKA Safieh Fard  
Bahrami, AKA Safieh F. Bahramian, AKA  
Safieh Bahramianfard, AKA Safieh  
Bahraman Bahramianfard, AKA Safieh  
Faird, AKA Bafish Fard, AKA Safieh B.  
Fard, AKA Safieh Rahraman Fard, AKA  
Saieh Fard, AKA Sasieh Fard, AKA  
Sophia Fard, AKA Safieh B. Kikalaye,  
AKA Fard Safifeh, AKA Safieh Sard,

Defendant - Appellant.

No. 13-50219

D.C. No. 8:07-cr-00052-CJC-1

MEMORANDUM\*

Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the Central District of California  
Cormac J. Carney, District Judge, Presiding

Argued and Submitted March 3, 2015  
Pasadena, California

Before: REINHARDT, N.R. SMITH, and HURWITZ, Circuit Judges.

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\* This disposition is not appropriate for publication and is not precedent except as provided by 9th Cir. R. 36-3.

Safieh Fard appeals her convictions for conspiracy to defraud the United States and conspiracy to commit money laundering. *See* 18 U.S.C. §§ 371, 1956(h). She argues that the district court erred by denying her request, made on the penultimate day of trial, to call a previously undisclosed expert witness. We have jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1291, and affirm.

1. Fard contends that the district judge erred in denying her request to call the expert witness for failure to comply with the notice provisions of Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 16, rather than continuing the trial to allow the government to prepare for examination of the expert. Even assuming that the witness should not have been excluded, we do not reverse for an abuse of discretion if the error was harmless. *United States v. Peters*, 937 F.2d 1422, 1424, 1426 (9th Cir. 1991).

2. The proposed expert would have testified generally about money laundering and IRS investigative procedures. The proposed testimony was designed to show that the IRS had not followed its own policies in investigating this case. Fard's attorney, however, had already vigorously cross-examined the testifying IRS agent on this topic. Moreover, there was no dispute that substantial taxes were owed, and the expert's proposed testimony was not relevant to Fard's defense that she lacked the requisite means *rea* to commit the charged offenses. Because the verdicts were strongly supported by the evidence and the expert's would-be testimony was not

probative of the key issue of intent, we conclude that even if it were error to exclude the expert's testimony, any such error was harmless.

**AFFIRMED.**