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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
January 2025 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

JONATHAN RINDERKNECHT,
aka "Jonathan Rinder,"
aka "Jon Rinder,"

Defendant.

CR No. 2:25-cr-00833-AH

I N D I C T M E N T

[18 U.S.C. § 844(f)(1):
Destruction of Property by Means
of Fire; 18 U.S.C. § 844(i): Arson
Affecting Property Used in
Interstate Commerce; 18 U.S.C.
§ 1855: Timber Set Afire]

The Grand Jury charges:

COUNT ONE

[18 U.S.C. § 844(f)(1)]

Beginning on or about January 1, 2025, and continuing through on
or about January 31, 2025, in Los Angeles County, within the Central
District of California, defendant JONATHAN RINDERKNECHT, also known
as "Jonathan Rinder" and "Jon Rinder," maliciously damaged and
destroyed, by means of fire, specifically, the fire known as the
Lachman Fire and Palisades Fire, buildings and other real and
personal property in whole and in part owned and possessed by, or
leased to, the United States, or any department or agency thereof,

1 and institutions and organizations receiving federal financial
2 assistance, namely:

3 A. Real property owned or possessed by the Mountains Recreation and
4 Conservation Authority, including the parcel identified by the
5 Los Angeles County Assessor as Assessor Identification Number
6 4431-023-903;

7 B. Buildings, parks, and public lands owned or possessed by the
8 United States, including the Camp 8 Historic District and the
9 Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area;

10 C. Buildings, parks, and public lands owned or possessed by the
11 ~~State of California, including the parcel identified by the Los~~
12 Angeles County Assessor as Assessor Identification Number 4431-
13 023-902, Topanga State Park, and Will Rogers State Historic
14 Park;

15 D. Buildings, parks, and public lands owned or possessed by the
16 City of Los Angeles, including Temescal Canyon Park, Potrero
17 Canyon Park, and the Pacific Palisades Public Library;

18 E. Federally insured banks, including the Pacific Palisades
19 branches of Bank of America and Chase Bank;

20 F. Electrical and telecommunications equipment and infrastructure;

21 G. California State Route 27; and

22 H. Pacific Coast Highway.

COUNT TWO

[18 U.S.C. § 844(i)]

Beginning on or about January 1, 2025, and continuing through on or about January 31, 2025, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, defendant JONATHAN RINDERKNECHT, also known as "Jonathan Rinder" and "Jon Rinder," maliciously damaged and destroyed, by means of fire, specifically, the fire known as the Lachman Fire and Palisades Fire, buildings and other real and personal property used in interstate and foreign commerce and in any activity affecting interstate or foreign commerce, namely:

- A. The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area;
- B. Buildings, parks and public lands owned or possessed by the State of California, including Topanga State Park and its commercial lessees;
- C. Federally insured banks, including the Pacific Palisades branches of Bank of America and Chase Bank;
- D. Commercial buildings and businesses, including those in the Palisades Village shopping center;
- E. Rental properties;
- F. Electrical and telecommunications equipment and infrastructure;
and
- G. Pacific Coast Highway.

COUNT THREE

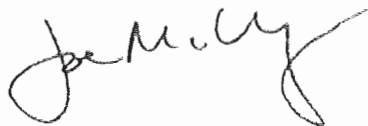
[18 U.S.C. § 1855]

Beginning on or about January 1, 2025, and continuing through on or about January 31, 2025, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, defendant JONATHAN RINDERKNECHT, also known as "Jonathan Rinder" and "Jon Rinder," willfully and without authority, set on fire, through the fire known as the Lachman Fire and Palisades Fire, timber, underbrush, grass, and other inflammable material upon the public domain and upon lands owned by the United States and under the partial, concurrent, or exclusive jurisdiction of the United States, within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

A TRUE BILL

/s/
Foreperson

BILAL A. ESSAYLI
Acting United States Attorney



JOSEPH T. MCNALLY
Assistant United States Attorney
Acting Chief, Criminal Division

MARK A. WILLIAMS
Assistant United States Attorney
Chief, Environmental Crimes and Consumer Protection Section

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Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section