

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
 EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
 FILED 1-31-2018
 WILLIAM W. BLEVINS
 CLERK *FG*

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	*	CRIMINAL NO. 17-73
v.	*	SECTION: "B"
GABRIEL CARRETO-SANCHEZ	*	VIOLATION: 21 U.S.C. § 846
a/k/a "El Buki"	*	21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1)
	*	21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(B)

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FACTUAL BASIS

The above-named defendant, **GABRIEL CARRETO-SANCHEZ**, has agreed to plead guilty as charged to Count One of the Indictment, in which he is charged with conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute one kilogram or more of cocaine hydrochloride, and Count Two of the Indictment, in which he is charged with possession with the intent to distribute one kilogram or more of cocaine hydrochloride. Should this matter have proceeded to trial, the United States of America would have proven beyond a reasonable doubt, through the introduction of relevant, competent, and admissible testimonial, physical and demonstrative evidence, the following facts to support the allegation against defendant **GABRIEL CARRETO-SANCHEZ**.

FBI's New Orleans Field Office ("FBI-New Orleans"), conducted an investigation of a drug trafficking organization with ties to the Southern District of Texas and the Eastern District of Louisiana. The investigation has revealed that LEONARDO CASTILLO a/k/a "El Layo" ("CASTILLO") was a Houston-based cocaine trafficker who sold multiple kilograms of cocaine.

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The investigation has identified **GABRIEL CARRETO-SANCHEZ** ("CARRETO") a/k/a "El Buki" and **JORGE BOLANOS** ("BOLANOS") a/k/a "the Mexican" a/k/a "Gordo" as two of CASTILLO's customers. The investigation has revealed that **CARRETO** has traveled from the New Orleans, Louisiana area to Houston to meet with CASTILLO and received cocaine from him.

The investigative techniques utilized during this investigation include orders authorizing the interception of wire and electronic communications over a telephone assigned number (281) 660-1022 ("Telephone #1"), utilized by BOLANOS, and (832) 713-1571 ("Telephone #2"), utilized by CASTILLO.

Intercepted telephone calls made clear that CASTILLO was BOLANOS's supplier, and that **CARRETO** traveled from New Orleans to Houston and back again to deliver drugs/money for BOLANOS.

For example, on April 2, 2017, at approximately 8:04 PM, CASTILLO, using Telephone #2, received an incoming call from BOLANOS. During that conversation, BOLANOS stated, "What's up crazy?" BOLANOS asked, "you had called me?" CASTILLO responded, "Yeah, man, what was I going to tell you?" Later in the conversation, CASTILLO stated, "Oh that one had told me that shit came out short." BOLANOS replied, "Last night we sent you the picture when we were there at the house. It's been twice that it comes out to 489." CASTILLO said, "Take 2 bucks out of it man." BOLANOS then said, "2 bucks, nah." CASTILLO stated, "Well how much do you want man, 89?" BOLANOS responded, "Yeah, 489. There are 11 points gone just there. They are giving you the short part, they are keeping the 500. That's what's happening." BOLANOS later said, "What was I going to tell you, um... There is a guy that is stubborn... do you think you can bring the other half and take this paper? So that dude (unintelligible) by himself. Or you can't?" CASTILLO asked, "you want a half?" BOLANOS replied, "That it, I have a guy

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that is going to want to get it all but what I want to see if I can (unintelligible) so I can bring you this shit, so that you can take the papers once and for all? If not, If not..." CASTILLO responded, "That's what I'm telling you." BOLANOS then said, "This guy had 3 orders (unintelligible) right now, you already know. It's too much."

CASTILLO stated, "Yes. That's why I tell you, you want a whole one then?" BOLANOS responded, "No, what I'm trying to tell you is... well if they give you a whole one fine but not (unintelligible). The thing is that, that if you assure me that... what I have will give to this dude right now once and for all and then he will be in charge of... you understand?" CASTILLO replied, "Oh okay, okay." Later in the conversation, BOLANOS asked, "Okay, so for when, tomorrow?" CASTILLO said, "If you are interested I just need you to confirm with me dude so that, if you tell me yes, I will let it go in the morning really quick." Subsequently, toward the end of the conversation, CASTILLO said, "I can call this dude back and do a deal with him once and for all."

FBI believes that during this call, BOLANOS informed CASTILLO that a prior shipment of cocaine, which was intended to be one half kilogram, was short 11 grams. Specifically, they know, based on their training and experience, that cocaine traffickers commonly discuss cocaine describing the weight of the substance. Therefore, they believe that when BOLANOS discussed, "489," he was referring to 489 grams of cocaine. Moreover, FBI believes that when BOLANOS said, "11 points gone," he was telling CASTILLO that his prior shipment was missing 11 grams, which when added to the 489 grams, would have been one half kilogram. Moreover, they know that the term "half" is commonly used by cocaine traffickers to refer to one half kilogram, and that a "whole one" is a term commonly used by cocaine traffickers to refer to one kilogram of cocaine. Therefore, they believe that when CASTILLO asked BOLANOS whether he wanted a "half," or a "whole one," he was asking whether BOLANOS wanted to purchase one half kilogram or one

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kilogram of cocaine. Moreover, they know that the term “paper” is commonly used by narcotics traffickers to refer to money. Therefore, they believe that when BOLANOS asked if CASTILLO would give “one half,” and would take “paper”, he was asking whether CASTILLO could provide cocaine and BOLANOS would then provide money for payment.

Later on April 2, 2017, at approximately 8:33 PM, CASTILLO, using Telephone #2, received an incoming call from BOLANOS. During that conversation, CASTILLO said, “Like I tell you, I could go for that thing and bring you the other one. You understand? There would not be a problem.” BOLANOS said, “But for when would it be?” CASTILLO said, “Well for tomorrow.” BOLANOS said, “No yeah, but what about the other?” CASTILLO said, “The other would be for just getting here and I would come and cancel and I would go over there again to bring it to you.” BOLANOS said, “You think that by Wednesday?” CASTILLO said, “yes.” Later, BOLANOS said, “Check to see if by Wednesday you can do it for me.” CASTILLO said, “Yes, it’s already confirmed. You just tell me, you confirm with me and I will quickly move.”

FBI believe that during this call, CASTILLO informed BOLANOS that he would have cocaine available to sell to BOLANOS on Wednesday, which would be April 5, 2017.

FBI has also intercepted telephone calls between CASTILLO, utilizing Telephone #2, and **CARRETO**, using a telephone assigned number (404) 901-9582 (“Telephone #3”). Specifically, on April 3, 2017, at approximately 4:59 PM, CASTILLO, using Target Telephone #1, received an incoming call from **CARRETO**, using Telephone #3. During that conversation, CASTILLO asked, “What’s up Buki?” Later, CASTILLO asked, “Have you seen Gordo?” **CARRETO** said, “Yes, I saw him in the morning and he told me that he wanted me to go over there today, but I told him until tomorrow.” CASTILLO said, “Alright, and what’s up? Is it yes or no?” **CARRETO** responded, “Yes, tomorrow in the morning.” CASTILLO asked, “You’re coming tomorrow?”

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CARRETO said, "Yes." Later, **CARRETO** said, "He wanted to send me today, but I couldn't today because I'm drunk but tomorrow, yes." Later, **CASTILLO** said, "Don't go crazy. Calm down." **CARRETO** said later, "That's good then. I will see you tomorrow if they send me over there." **CASTILLO** responded, "Okay, perfect old man. That's it."

FBI believes that during this conversation, **CARRETO** and **CASTILLO** discussed that **CARRETO** would travel to Houston to meet with **CASTILLO** to procure cocaine on behalf of **BOLANOS**. Specifically, they know that **CARRETO** utilizes the nickname "El Buki." In addition, they know that **BOLANOS** utilizes the nickname "Gordo." Therefore, they believe that when **CASTILLO** asked whether **CARRETO** had seen "Gordo," he was asking whether **CARRETO** had spoken to **BOLANOS**. They believe that during this conversation, based on the prior intercepted calls, **CARRETO** was telling **CASTILLO** that he would travel on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 to Houston to meet with **CASTILLO** to complete the cocaine transaction that **CASTILLO** and **BOLANOS** had previously discussed.

On April 4, 2017, FBI obtained a Court order authorizing the acquisition of geolocation information for telephones utilized by **CARRETO**, **BOLANOS**, and **CASTILLO** for a period of 14 days. Service for **CASTILLO**'s phone, however, was terminated on that day, and therefore no location information or additional intercepted telephone calls were acquired after April 4, 2017. Location information for **BOLANOS**'s phone indicated that **BOLANOS** was located in the New Orleans area. Moreover, location information for **CARRETO**'s phone indicated that **CARRETO** was located in Houston, Texas.

On that day, surveillance was established near **CASTILLO**'s residence, located at 7234 Bywood Street, Houston, Texas ("CASTILLO's Residence") by Special Agent Deonte Eans of the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") Houston Division. During that surveillance at

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approximately 6:00 p.m., Agent Eans observed CASTILLO in the rear of that residence exercising. Agent Eans was able to identify CASTILLO from a picture provided by the Harris County District Attorney's Office. Shortly after this observation, Agent Eans observed **CARRETO** park near CASTILLO's Residence in a Silver 2005 Ford Expedition bearing Louisiana license plate ZNM446. Agent Eans was able to identify **CARRETO** from a photograph provided to him from a government database. **CARRETO** then exited the vehicle with an unidentified Hispanic female and entered the CASTILLO's Residence approximately 6:15 p.m. Later, Agent Eans observed **CARRETO** leaving CASTILLO's Residence empty-handed.

On Thursday, April 6, 2017 at approximately 11:42 a.m., GPS data for **CARRETO**'s phone revealed that **CARRETO** was again at CASTILLO's Residence. GPS data then revealed that **CARRETO** started traveling east towards New Orleans, Louisiana immediately after departing from CASTILLO's Residence.

Later that day, at approximately 3:00 p.m., members of FBI conducted a traffic stop on a Silver 2005 Ford Expedition bearing Louisiana license plate ZNM446 on Interstate 10 near mile marker 197, in the Eastern District of Louisiana. **CARRETO** was observed driving the vehicle, and was the sole occupant. After the traffic stop was conducted, a K-9 unit from the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office ("JPSO") conducted a free air sniff on the vehicle where she alerted near the glove box on the front passenger side of the vehicle. Agent Brown searched the area where the K-9 alerted and found approximately one kilogram of cocaine hidden behind the radio of the vehicle. The cocaine field tested positive. **CARRETO** was then released to further the investigation.

On April 17, 2017, after FBI obtained arrest warrants for **CARRETO**, BOLANOS, and CASTILLO, all three were arrested: **CARRETO** and BOLANOS at their residences in New

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Orleans, and CASTILLO at his residence in Houston, which was 7234 Bywood Street. Numerous cellphones were seized, and approximately \$19,000 in U.S. currency was seized from BOLANOS's house.

This proffer of evidence is not intended to constitute a complete statement of all facts known by **GABRIEL CARRETO-SANCHEZ**, but rather is a minimum statement of facts intended to prove the necessary factual predicate for the guilty plea. The limited purpose of this proffer is to demonstrate that there exists a sufficient legal and factual basis for **GABRIEL CARRETO-SANCHEZ's** plea of guilty to these crimes.

READ AND APPROVED:


JONATHAN L. SHIH
Assistant United States Attorney

1/31/18
(Date)


ROBERT EARLY, ESQ.
Attorney for Defendant

1/5/18
(Date)


GABRIEL CARRETO-SANCHEZ
Defendant

1/5/2018
(Date)