

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ALEX OGUNSHAKIN
FELIX OKPOH
ABIOLA KAYODE
NNAMDI BENSON,

Defendants.

8:19 CR 282

INDICTMENT

18 U.S.C. § 1349

The Grand Jury charges that

COUNT I
CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT WIRE FRAUD
18 U.S.C. § 1349

INTRODUCTION

1. Beginning at a time unknown to the Grand Jury, but no later than January 2015 to on or about September 2016, ALEX OGUNSHAKIN, FELIX OKPOH, ABIOLA KAYODE, and NNAMDI BENSON, the defendants, and other individuals known and unknown to the Grand Jury, devised and intended to devise a scheme to defraud businesses, including businesses in the District of Nebraska and elsewhere in the United States, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises.

THE SCHEME

2. It was a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that individuals known and unknown to the Grand Jury, would pose as business executives and, using e-mail accounts spoofed to make it appear as though they were coming from a company's true business executive, would request and receive wire transfers of funds from the businesses' accounts. The

wire transfers were sent to bank accounts provided by ALEX OGUNSHAKIN, FELIX OKPOH, ABIOLA KAYODE, and NNAMDI BENSON, the defendants herein, and from other co-conspirators, to other co-conspirators and to victims of romance schemes.

MANNER AND MEANS

It was part of the scheme that:

3. Co-conspirators known to the Grand Jury, and other individuals unknown to the Grand Jury, used compromised e-mail accounts to send spoofed e-mails to thousands of business employees who handled accounting, to include authorizing and sending wire transfers. A spoofed e-mail is one in which the e-mail appears to be originating from a sender other than who is truly the sender. Co-conspirators known to the Grand Jury and other individuals unknown to the Grand Jury spoofed e-mail addresses to pose as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or other business executives. The co-conspirators would direct recipients of the e-mail to complete wire transfers. The business employees, thinking that the wire transfer requests were legitimate, would comply with the wire transfer request and wire the money to the location provided in the wiring instructions. ALEX OGUNSHAKIN, FELIX OKPOH, ABIOLA KAYODE, and NNAMDI BENSON, the defendants herein, and others unknown to the grand jury, provided bank account information to the co-conspirators who sent the spoofed e-mails to the business executives. Once the co-conspirators had the bank account information, they would send the fraudulent e-mails to the business executives.

4. On or about February 23, 2015, a co-conspirator sent an e-mail purporting to be from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Company A¹, a Company located in Omaha, Nebraska, to Company A's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) with wire instructions to transfer

¹ Company A is a victim company located in the District of Nebraska and is known to the Grand Jury.

funds from Company A's bank account to a Bank of America account which was provided to the co-conspirator by NNAMDI BENSON.

5. Pursuant to this scheme, the defendants and co-conspirators caused and attempted to cause losses in excess of \$6,000,000.00.

6. Beginning at a time unknown to the Grand Jury, but no later than January 2015 through September 2016, ALEX OGUNSHAKIN, FELIX OKPOH, ABIOLA KAYODE, and NNAMDI BENSON, the defendants herein, and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, in the District of Nebraska and elsewhere in the United States, did unlawfully, willfully and knowingly conspire, combine, confederate, and agree with each and other individuals unknown to the Grand Jury, to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud, and for obtaining money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, and for the purpose of executing the scheme and artifice to defraud, transmitted and caused to be transmitted by means of wire communication in interstate and foreign commerce, any writings, signs, signals, pictures and sounds in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 1343, as described in paragraphs 1 through 5 above in that the defendant and other individuals known and unknown to the grand jury provided bank account information to other co-conspirators, who sent and caused to be sent fraudulent e-mails to companies in the District of Nebraska and elsewhere in the United States, said e-mails containing material misrepresentations that caused the companies to wire transfer funds as instructed in the e-mails to the bank accounts provided by ALEX OGUNSHAKIN, FELIX OKPOH, ABIOLA KAYODE, and NNAMDI BENSON.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.

A TRUE BILL.

FOREPERSON

The United States of America requests that trial of this case be held in Omaha, Nebraska, pursuant to the rules of this Court.

Lecia E. Wright

LECIA E. WRIGHT, NEJ# 24562
Assistant U.S. Attorney