

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Hon.  
v. : Crim. No. 16-  
STIVEN LOPEZ-BENDER : 18 U.S.C. § 39A

I N F O R M A T I O N

The defendant having waived in open court prosecution by indictment, the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey charges:

1. At all times relevant to this Information:
  - a. Individual 1 was the operator of a helicopter (“the Helicopter”) who worked on behalf of an affiliate of a television network (“Channel A”).
  - b. Individual 2 reported stories on behalf of Channel A from the Helicopter as a reporter/videographer. Individual 2 would advise Individual 1 about a location for a story, and Individual 1 would guide the Helicopter to the appropriate location. Aviation news footage would then be developed for either “Live on Air Breaking News” or for footage for a later story.
  - c. The Helicopter was in the special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States.

2. On or about November 11, 2015, Individual 2 requested Individual 1 to fly the Helicopter to a location in Elizabeth, New Jersey to cover a house fire story. At approximately 5:20 pm, while the Helicopter was at an altitude of approximately 1000 feet, defendant STIVEN LOPEZ-BENDER aimed at and struck the flight deck of the Helicopter through the main windshield with a green-color laser. Several minutes later, defendant STIVEN LOPEZ-BENDER emerged from a sports utility vehicle ("SUV"), reached into the passenger side of the SUV, and then pointed a green-color laser at the Helicopter, causing a second laser strike to the Helicopter.

3. Individual 1 lowered the Helicopter to approximately 500 feet in altitude. As defendant LOPEZ-BENDER walked towards an apartment building, defendant LOPEZ-BENDER turned and again pointed the green-color laser towards the Helicopter before entering the apartment building, causing a third strike to the Helicopter.

4. Individual 1 then circled the area at an altitude of approximately 800 feet. Within approximately 10 minutes, defendant STIVEN LOPEZ-BENDER again pointed the green-color laser at the Helicopter from a window in the apartment building into which defendant STIVEN LOPEZ-BENDER had just entered.

5. On or about November 11, 2015, in Union County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, defendant

STIVEN LOPEZ-BENDER

did knowingly aim the beam of a laser pointer at an aircraft in the special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States as defined by Title 49, United States Code, Section 46501.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 39A.

  
PAUL J. FISHMAN  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

**CASE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**INFORMATION FOR**

18 U.S.C. § 39A

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**PAUL J. FISHMAN**

*UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY*

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**JOYCE M. MALLIET**

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