

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	Hon.
	:	
	:	Crim. No.
v.	:	
	:	18 U.S.C. § 371
	:	18 U.S.C. §§ 1960(a) and (b)
NICHOLAS ORTEGA MUNOZ	:	18 U.S.C. § 2

**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’s Office for the District of New Jersey charges:

**COUNT ONE**

(Conspiracy to Operate an Unlicensed Money Transmitting Business)

**Relevant Entities and Individuals**

1. At all times relevant to this Information:
  - a. Defendant NICHOLAS ORTEGA MUNOZ (“ORTEGA MUNOZ”), a citizen of Colombia, resided in Englewood, New Jersey.
  - b. “Co-Conspirator-1,” not charged in this Information, resided in Englewood, New Jersey.
  - c. BLK Graphics Group LLC (“BLK”) was a Limited Liability Company registered in Florida, with a mailing address located at Co-Conspirator-1’s residence. ORTEGA MUNOZ and Co-Conspirator-1 controlled and were connected to BLK.

d. “Internet Website-1” was an adult entertainment website in which online consumers viewed and paid for content provided by online content providers.

e. “Individual-1,” a user of Internet Website-1, resided in Colombia.

f. “Financial Institution-1” was a financial institution at which BLK maintained an account from in or around April 2021 to in or around June 2022.

g. “Financial Institution-2” was a financial institution at which BLK maintained an account from in or around January 2023 to in or around May 2023.

### **The Conspiracy**

2. From in or around May 2022, through in or around May 2023, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendant,

NICHOLAS ORTEGA MUNOZ,

did knowingly and intentionally conspire and agree with Co-Conspirator-1 and others known and unknown, to knowingly conduct, control, manage, supervise, direct, and own all or part of an unlicensed money transmitting business, which performed business affecting interstate and foreign commerce, and was a business (i) operating without an appropriate money transmitting license in a state where such operation is punishable as a misdemeanor or a felony under state law, that is, the State of New Jersey, and (ii) required to register with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (“FinCEN”), an agency of the United States government, pursuant to Title 31, United States Code, Section 5330, contrary to Title 18, United State Code, Sections 1960(a), (b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(B).

### **Goal of the Conspiracy**

3. The goal of the conspiracy was for ORTEGA MUNOZ, Co-Conspirator-1, and others known and unknown, to operate BLK as an unlicensed money transmitting business for the purposes of moving funds on behalf of online consumers of adult entertainment websites, principally Internet Website-1, to bank accounts in Colombia.

### **Manner and Means of the Conspiracy**

4. It was part of the conspiracy that:

a. ORTEGA MUNOZ, Co-Conspirator-1, and others arranged to receive proceeds from online sales to adult entertainment websites, principally Internet Website-1, in bank accounts maintained in the name of BLK, including at Financial Institution-1 and Financial Institution-2, that ORTEGA MUNOZ, Co-Conspirator-1, and others owned and controlled (the “BLK Bank Accounts”).

b. From in or around April 2021 through in or around January 2023, ORTEGA MUNOZ, Co-Conspirator-1, and others collectively received approximately \$61 million, including approximately \$23 million from individuals associated with Internet Website-1, in the BLK Bank Accounts. During that same time period, ORTEGA MUNOZ, Co-Conspirator-1, and others transferred an identical approximately \$61 million from the BLK Bank Accounts to bank accounts located in Colombia and associated with Colombian entities.

c. BLK’s business account application at Financial Institution-2, which is signed by Co-Conspirator-1, states that the company acts as a third-party

for business between Colombia and the United States. However, BLK was not registered with FinCEN and did not have a money transmitting license.

### **Overt Acts**

5. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to achieve its illegal objectives, ORTEGA MUNOZ, Co-Conspirator-1, and others known and unknown committed, and caused to be committed, the following overt acts:

a. On or about May 23, 2022, an account profile on Internet Website-1 registered to Individual-1 transferred approximately \$11,563.05 from Internet Website-1 to a BLK bank account at Financial Institution-1.

b. On or about May 24, 2022, records for the BLK bank account at Financial Institution-1 showed (i) an approximately \$30,000 counter deposit endorsed by ORTEGA MUNOZ and (ii) four deposits from Internet Website-1, collectively totaling approximately \$55,455.05, including one deposit in the amount of approximately \$11,563.05

c. Also on or about May 24, 2022, records for the BLK bank account at Financial Institution-1 showed three wire transfers to bank accounts located in Colombia and associated with Colombian entities, collectively totaling approximately \$100,000.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

**COUNT TWO**

(Operating an Unlicensed Money Transmitting Business)

1. The allegations in paragraphs 1 and 3 through 5 of Count One of this Information are realleged here.

2. From in or around May 2022, through in or around May 2023, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendant,

NICHOLAS ORTEGA MUNOZ,

knowingly conducted, controlled, managed, supervised, directed, and owned all or part of an unlicensed money transmitting business, and aided and abetted the conduct, control, management, supervision, direction, and ownership of such a money transmitting business, which performed business affecting interstate and foreign commerce, and was a business (i) operating without an appropriate money transmitting license in a state where such operation is punishable as a misdemeanor or a felony under state law, that is, the State of New Jersey, and (ii) required to register with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (“FinCEN”), an agency of the United States government, pursuant to Title 31, United States Code, Section 5330.

In violation of Title 18, United State Code, Sections 1960(a), (b)(1)(A) and (b)(1)(B) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

## **FORFEITURE ALLEGATION**

1. Upon conviction of the offense of Conspiracy to Operate an Unlicensed Money Transmitting business, as charged in Count One of this Information, the defendant, NICHOLAS ORTEGA MUNOZ, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461, any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to such offense.

2. Upon conviction of the offense of Operating an Unlicensed Money Transmitting Business, as Charged in Count Two of this Information, the defendant, NICHOLAS ORTEGA MUNOZ, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18 United States Code Section 982(a)(1), any property, real or personal, involved in such offense, and all property traceable to such property.

### **SUBSTITUTE ASSETS PROVISION** **(Applicable to All Forfeiture Provisions)**

3. If any of the property described above, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- d) has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty,

the United States shall be entitled, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section

853(p), as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b), to forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of the forfeitable property described above.

TODD BLANCHE  
U.S. Deputy Attorney General

PHILIP LAMPARELLO  
Senior Counsel

/s/ Robert L. Toll  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Approved:



Bradley A. Harsch  
Chief, Criminal Division