

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : 18 U.S.C. § 1519
 : 18 U.S.C. § 4
 v. : 18 U.S.C. § 2
 :
FRANCIS J. STYLES :
 :
 :

INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury, in and for the District of New Jersey, sitting at Newark, charges:

COUNT ONE
(Falsification of Records)

1. At all times relevant to Count One of this Indictment:
 - a. Defendant FRANCIS STYLES (“defendant STYLES”) was a police officer employed by the City of Bayonne, New Jersey Police Department (the “Bayonne Police Department”).
 - b. Domenico Lillo (“Lillo”) was a police officer employed by the Bayonne Police Department.
 - c. Officer 1 was a police officer employed by the Bayonne Police Department.

d. There was an individual (“Individual”) who was the subject of an arrest warrant issued by the New Jersey Superior Court, Sussex County, on or about November 12, 2013 (the “Sussex County Warrant”).

2. On or about December 27, 2013, at approximately 4:50 p.m., defendant STYLES, Lillo, and Officer 1, acting in their official capacities, went to an address on Avenue C in Bayonne to execute the Sussex County Warrant and arrest Individual.

3. Unbeknown to the officers who arrested Individual, four surveillance cameras attached to a bar on the corner of Avenue C and 53rd Street recorded the events that occurred immediately before and after Individual was arrested and handcuffed. One camera faced Avenue C, while the other three showed 53rd Street from various angles. A copy of the surveillance video taken from each camera was retrieved by law enforcement on or about December 27, 2013 (collectively, the “Video”).

4. Just before 5:00 p.m. on or about December 27, 2013, the Video showed defendant STYLES and Lillo escorting Individual down an exterior staircase leading from the entrance of a private residence, in handcuffs, and taking Individual to the ground.

5. Defendant STYLES, Lillo and Officer 1 then brought the handcuffed Individual to his feet and escorted Individual toward 53rd Street, with Lillo to the right of Individual and holding Individual’s right arm, and Officer 1 to the left of Individual holding Individual’s left arm, and defendant STYLES following closely behind

Individual. Individual was neither struggling nor resisting arrest, and Individual was not bleeding from his face or head.

6. The Video showed the officers and Individual rounding the corner from Avenue C onto 53rd Street. Individual was neither struggling nor resisting arrest. As they walked toward one of the recording cameras, Lillo looked at what appeared to be a full-sized (i.e., approximately one-foot-long) flashlight in his right hand and thrust the flashlight upwards, intentionally striking Individual's face and causing Individual to double over. According to the video recording, STYLES was looking directly at Lillo as Lillo struck Individual with the flashlight.

7. Individual sustained, among other injuries, a laceration on Individual's forehead that required 15 sutures to close as a result of the flashlight strike.

8. On or about December 27, 2013, defendant STYLES authored a Bayonne Police Department "Incident Report" in which he knowingly and intentionally: (a) omitted that Lillo had struck Individual in the face with a flashlight; (b) falsely asserted that Individual continued his violent struggle as he was being led to the patrol vehicle; and (c) falsely asserted that Individual had sustained his injuries as a result of hitting the wall and the ground outside the Avenue C residence.

9. Defendant STYLES authored, signed, and submitted the false Incident Report described in Paragraph 8 above in an effort to prevent law enforcement from discovering the true cause of Individual's injuries and to thwart any possible criminal,

civil, or administrative investigation and charges pertaining to the conduct of the officers involved in the arrest of Individual.

10. The use of excessive force by a person acting under color of law, statute, ordinance, or regulation is a matter within the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”), which is an agency within the United States Department of Justice.

11. On or about December 27, 2013, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendant

FRANCIS STYLES,

in relation to and in contemplation of a matter within the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, an agency of the United States, knowingly concealed, covered up, falsified, and made false entries on a Bayonne Police Department Incident Report about the arrest of Individual, with the intent to impede, obstruct, and influence the investigation and proper administration of the matter within federal jurisdiction, that is, defendant STYLES falsified the Incident Report by: (a) omitting that Lillo had struck Individual in the face with a flashlight; (b) falsely asserting that Individual continued his violent struggle as he was being led to the patrol vehicle; and (c) falsely asserting that Individual had sustained his injuries as a result of hitting the wall and the ground outside the Avenue C residence.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1519 and Section 2

COUNT TWO
(Misprision of Felony)

1. Paragraphs 1-10 of Count One of this Indictment are realleged and incorporated as if set forth herein.

2. On or about December 27, 2013, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendant


FRANCIS STYLES,

having knowledge of the actual commission of a felony cognizable by a court of the United States, to wit, the deprivation of civil rights under the color of law, did conceal the same by submitting a falsified Bayonne Police Department Incident Report, and did not as soon as possible make known the same to some judge or other person in civil authority under the United States.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 4 and Section 2.

A TRUE BILL

FOREPERSON


WILLIAM E. FITZPATRICK
Acting United States Attorney

CASE NUMBER:

**United States District Court
District of New Jersey**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

FRANCIS J. STYLES

INDICTMENT FOR

18 U.S.C. §§ 1519, 4, and 2

A True Bill,

Foreperson

WILLIAM E. FITZPATRICK
Acting U.S. ATTORNEY
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

**JACQUES S. PIERRE AND
BRUCE P. KELLER**
ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEYS
973-645-2716
973-645-2930
