

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

FILED

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

AMBULAI SHEKU,
Defendant.

CR. No.

2016 OCT 13 P 1:23

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

16-091-S-LDA

PLEA AGREEMENT

Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the United States and Defendant, AMBULAI SHEKU, have reached the following agreement:

1. Defendant's Obligations:

a. Defendant will waive Indictment and presentment to a Grand Jury and plead guilty to an Information which charges the Defendant with Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349, Theft of Government Funds, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641, and Accessing a Computer to Defraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1030(a)(4).

b. Defendant will plead guilty to the Information. Defendant further agrees that the time between the filing of this plea agreement and the scheduled date for the change of plea is excludable under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161.

c. Defendant is free to recommend any sentence he deems appropriate, including probation.

2. Government's Obligations. In exchange for Defendant's plea of guilty:

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a. The government will recommend that the Court impose a term of imprisonment within the range of sentences for the offense level determined by the Court under the United States Sentencing Guidelines (the U.S.S.G. or "guidelines").

b. For purposes of determining the offense level, the government agrees to recommend a two-level reduction in the offense level for acceptance of responsibility under § 3E1.1(a) of the guidelines if Defendant continues to demonstrate acceptance of responsibility through sentencing.

c. As of the date of this agreement, Defendant has timely notified authorities of an intention to enter a plea of guilty. If the offense level is 16 or greater and Defendant enters a plea of guilty pursuant to this agreement, the government will move the sentencing Court for an additional decrease of one level, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b)(2), unless Defendant indicates an intention not to enter a plea of guilty, thereby requiring the government to prepare for trial.

d. The government is free to recommend any combination of supervised release, fines, and restitution which it deems appropriate.

3. Defendant understands that the guidelines are not binding on the Court, and that, although the Court must consult the guidelines in fashioning any sentence in this case, the guidelines are only advisory, and the Court may impose any reasonable sentence in this matter up to the statutory maximum penalties after taking into account the factors enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

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4. Specific Agreements:

a. The parties agree that the total amount of loss pursuant to U.S.S.G. §§2B1.1(b)(1) is more than \$250,000, but less than or equal to \$550,000; namely, \$508,691

5. The maximum statutory penalties for the offense to which defendant is pleading are:

Count 1 – Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud, 18 U.S.C. § 1349

20 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, a term of supervised release of 3 years, and a mandatory special assessment of \$100;

Count 2 – Theft of Government Funds, 18 U.S.C. § 641

10 years imprisonment, \$250,000 fine, a term of supervised release of 3 years, and a special assessment of \$100;

Count 3 – Accessing a Protected Computer to Commit Fraud, 18 U.S.C. § 1030(a)(4)

5 years imprisonment, \$250,000 fine, a term of supervised release of 3 years, and a special assessment of \$100.

Thus, should the penalties described above be imposed consecutively, the maximum penalties are: 35 years imprisonment, \$750,000 in fines, a term of supervised release of 9 years, and special assessments of \$300.

6. Defendant agrees that, after Defendant and Defendant's counsel sign this agreement, counsel will return it to the United States Attorney's Office along with a money order or certified check, payable to the Clerk, United States District Court, in payment of the special assessments. Failure to do so, unless the Court has made a

previous finding of indigence, will relieve the government of its obligation to recommend a reduction in the offense level under the guidelines for acceptance of responsibility.

7. Defendant is advised and understands that:

- a. The government has the right, in a prosecution for perjury or making a false statement, to use against Defendant any statement that Defendant gives under oath;
- b. Defendant has the right to plead not guilty, or having already so pleaded, to persist in that plea;
- c. Defendant has the right to a jury trial;
- d. Defendant has the right to be represented by counsel – and if necessary have the Court appoint counsel – at trial and every other stage of the proceeding;
- e. Defendant has the right at trial to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, to be protected from self-incrimination, to testify and present evidence, and to compel the attendance of witnesses; and
- f. Defendant waives these trial rights if the Court accepts a plea of guilty.

8. The government reserves its full right of allocution, including the right to present any information to the Court for its consideration in fashioning an appropriate sentence, the right to correct misstatements, misrepresentations, or omissions by Defendant, and to answer any questions asked by the Court.

9. Except for paragraphs 2 and 4, above, the parties have made no agreement concerning the application of the guidelines in this case.

10. Defendant understands that the Court alone makes all sentencing decisions, including the application of the guidelines and the sentence to be imposed. The Court is not bound by the parties' stipulations of fact, offense level adjustments, or the government's recommendations. The Court is free to impose any sentence it deems appropriate up to and including the statutory maximum. Defendant also understands that even if the Court's guideline determinations and sentence are different than Defendant expects, Defendant will not be allowed to withdraw Defendant's plea of guilty.

11. Defendant hereby waives Defendant's right to appeal the convictions and sentences imposed by the Court, if the sentences imposed by the Court are within or below the sentencing guideline range determined by the Court. This agreement does not affect the rights or obligations of the United States as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b), and the government retains its right to appeal any of the Court's sentencing determinations.

12. This agreement is binding on the government only if Defendant pleads guilty, fulfills all Defendant's obligations under the agreement, does not engage in any conduct constituting obstruction of justice under § 3C1.1 of the guidelines, and does not commit any new offenses. Defendant understands that if Defendant violates this agreement in any way, the government shall be released from its obligations under the agreement and will be free to make any recommendations that it deems appropriate. If that occurs, Defendant shall not have the right to withdraw Defendant's guilty plea.


13. This agreement is limited to the District of Rhode Island and does not bind any other federal, state, or local prosecutive authorities.

14. This agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties. No other promises or inducements have been made concerning the plea in this case. Defendant acknowledges that no person has, directly or indirectly, threatened or coerced Defendant to enter this agreement. Any additions, deletions, or modifications to this agreement must be made in writing and signed by all the parties in order to be effective.

15. Counsel for Defendant states that Counsel has read this agreement, been given a copy of it for Counsel's file, explained it to Defendant, and states that to the best of Counsel's knowledge and belief, Defendant understands the agreement.


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16. Defendant states that Defendant has read the agreement or has had it read to Defendant, has discussed it with Defendant's Counsel, understands it, and agrees to its provisions.



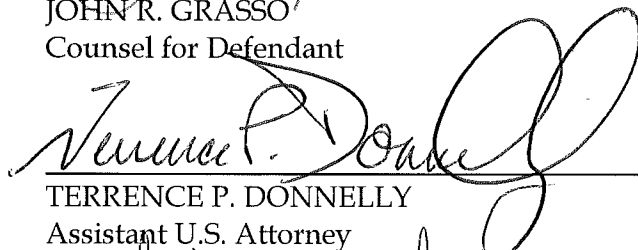
AMBULAI SHEKU
Defendant

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Date



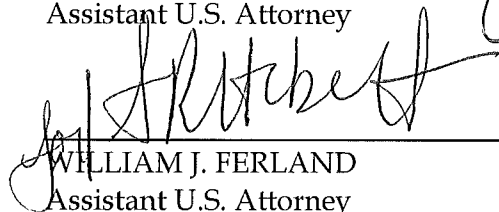
JOHN R. GRASSO
Counsel for Defendant

10/13/2016
Date



TERRENCE P. DONNELLY
Assistant U.S. Attorney

10/13/2016
Date



WILLIAM J. FERLAND
Assistant U.S. Attorney
Chief, Criminal Division

10/13/16
Date