

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

CASE NO. 8:23cr336 MJS-TGW

21 U.S.C. § 846

LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY CO. LTD.,
MINGMING WANG, and
XINQIANG LU

18 U.S.C. § 1956

INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury charges:

INTRODUCTION

A. The Fentanyl Epidemic in America

1. Fentanyl is the deadliest drug threat facing the United States in its 247-year history. Not only is fentanyl 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine, a dose of as little as two milligrams can kill a grown adult. Fentanyl analogues are similar in chemical structure and effects as fentanyl.

2. Fentanyl is the leading cause of death for Americans ages 18 to 49. From February 2022 to January 2023, at least 105,263 Americans died of drug overdoses, the majority of which involved synthetic opioids such as fentanyl and fentanyl analogues. In Florida in 2021, fentanyl was present in approximately 6,417 deaths, an average of 17 fentanyl-related deaths per day.

B. The Role of Fentanyl Precursors

3. Fentanyl is a chemical that does not occur in nature. It and its analogues therefore need to be synthesized through raw chemicals known as

precursors.

4. Chemicals used in interstate and foreign commerce are often identified through a Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) Registry Number. The CAS is a division of the American Chemical Society and it maintains the CAS Registry, a list of all CAS numbered chemicals and their chemical associations. A CAS Registry Number is a unique and unambiguous identifier for a specific substance.

5. CAS: 19099-93-5 is the CAS Registry Numbers for 1-Z-4-Piperidone. 4-Piperdone, a known fentanyl precursor.

6. CAS: 28578-16-7 is the CAS Registry Numbers for 3,4-MDP-2-P ethyl glycidic. CAS: 28578-16-7 is a known precursor for MDMA (ecstasy).

7. CAS: 103-63-9 is the CAS Registry Number for (2-Bromoethyl) Benzene a known fentanyl precursor – used in the production of fentanyl. The amount of fentanyl that can be generated from a particular chemical is called a yield. Each yield is dependent upon a variety of factors, including the purities of the associated precursors, reagents, and solvents, as well as the expertise and experience of the laboratory operator. A theoretical yield is the maximum amount of fentanyl or fentanyl analogue a precursor could theoretically produce.

8. One kilogram of CAS: 103-63-9 would theoretically yield up to two kilograms of fentanyl.

C. Chinese Chemical Companies Supply Fentanyl Precursors to the United States and Mexican Drug Cartels

9. The primary distributors of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues in North

America are the Sinaloa Cartel and the Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generación. These two transnational criminal organizations have significant presences throughout Mexico, maintain distribution hubs in various cities across the United States, and control smuggling corridors into the United States.

10. Organizations such as the Sinaloa Cartel and Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generación receive fentanyl precursors from China that are then synthesized within clandestine laboratories into finished fentanyl at scale. China-based precursor chemical manufacturers ship precursors from mainland China by mislabeling the products being shipped and using containers and other packaging to mask their illicit contents.

D. The Defendants

11. LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY COMPANY (“LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL”) is a chemical manufacturing company based in the city of Wuhan, in the Hubei Province, China. LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL openly advertises the sale of opioids to the United States and Mexico on its website and through its employees.

12. LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL ships CAS: 28578-16-7 and CAS: 103-63-9 to the United States and represents that it can deliver parcels that United States customs authorities will not seize.

13. MINGMING WANG is a national of China and listed as the account holder for three Bitcoin accounts shared by sales agents for LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL.

14. XINQIANG LU is a national of China and the person who received funds via Western Union on behalf of LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL.

E. Contact with Undercover

15. In and or around January 2023, an individual acting behalf of LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL, began negotiating the sale of CAS: 28578-16-7 to an individual posing as a trafficker in the United States. In reality, the trafficker in the United States was an undercover DEA Special Agent (UC-1).

16. In a series of emails, LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL represented that it sold and shipped controlled substances to the United States. LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL engaged in the following conversation with UC-1:

LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL: Hope this email finds you well. We can ship to America, which is our main market. The attachment below is related to price of PMK oil [CAS 28578-16-7] and price of popular products [LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL sent price chart for chemicals]

UC-1: Good morning...To start off I would be interested in ordering 5 kilos to start. I have been scammed before and my money stolen so do you have tracking info of packages that have successfully made into the states? Also, what form of payment you accept?

LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL: We have a lot of tracking information on packages that successfully entered the United States, and they were recently signed and received...I guarantee you will clear customs and

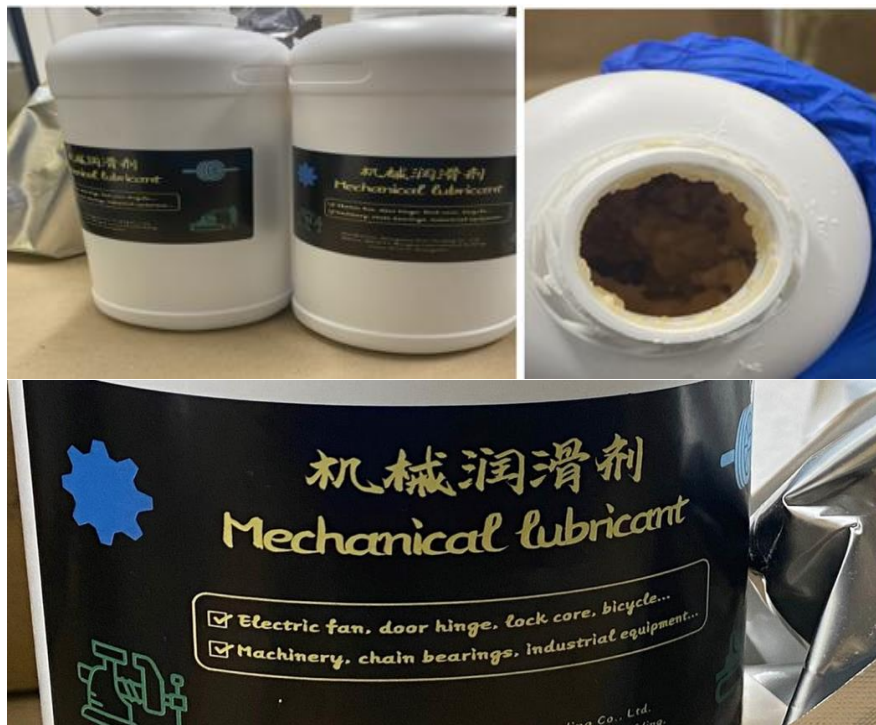
receive the package. And We have many kinds of payment methods, and this is the most common ones: Bitcoin, Western Union, MoneyGram, PayPal, TT, Alibaba, bank transfer.

17. LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL and UC-1 agreed on the price and shipment of five kilograms of CAS: 28578-16-7. LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL confirmed CAS: 28578-16-7 would be shipped to Tampa, within the Middle District of Florida, in bottles and “carefully packaged and renamed.” UC-1 transferred payment via Western Union from the Middle District of Florida to an account in China.

18. LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL directed the funds sent to XINQIANG LU. UC-1 transferred the funds to XINQIANG LU through Western Union. LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL confirmed receipt of the payment and sent shipping confirmation for the package. UC-1 received the package in Tampa, within the Middle District of Florida, on or about April 15, 2023. The package is depicted below:



19. When the DEA Special Agents opened the package from LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL, the five kilograms of CAS: 28578-16-7 were concealed within several bottles and mislabeled as mechanical lubricant, as depicted below:



20. In or around July of 2023, UC-1 contacted LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL to discuss another order. LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL provided a Bitcoin wallet (BTC Wallet 1) for payment and identified CAS: 103-63-9 as a potential option for purchase. LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL represented that it could send eight kilograms of CAS: 103-63-9. UC-1 replied, “Yes send the 8kg of 103-63-9. The cook said that we can used to produce our pills.”

21. On or about August 14, 2023, the eight kilograms of CAS: 103-63-9 were delivered to Tampa, within the Middle District of Florida, and packaged in the same manner as the first shipment, as depicted below:



22. The eight kilograms of CAS: 103-63-9 sent by LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL theoretically yields 16 kilograms of fentanyl.

23. From on or about January 2023 to the date of indictment, LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL sent UC-1 addresses for three Bitcoin wallets (BTC Wallets 1-3). All three accounts were registered in the name of MINGMING WANG.

24. In September 2023, LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL agreed with UC-1 for a \$11,200 dollar shipment CAS: 19099-93-5, a 4-Piperidone chemical, a known fentanyl precursor.

25. LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL has never registered with the DEA to import regulated chemicals.

COUNT ONE
(Fentanyl Trafficking Conspiracy)

Paragraphs 1 to 25 are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

Beginning on an unknown date and continuing until on or about the date of this indictment, in the Middle District of Florida, China, and elsewhere, the defendants,

LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY CO., LTD.,
MINGMING WANG,
and
XINQIANG LU,

did knowingly and willfully combine, conspire, and agree with each and others, both known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to manufacture, possess with intent to manufacture, distribute, and possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance, contrary to the provisions of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1). The offense involved 400 grams or more of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of fentanyl, a Schedule II controlled substance; and 100 grams or more of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of an analogue of fentanyl, a Schedule I controlled substance.

All in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 846, 841(b)(1)(A), and 813(a).

COUNT TWO
(Attempted Money Laundering)

Paragraphs 1 to 25 are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

In or around August and September 2023, in the Middle District of Florida, China, and elsewhere, the defendants,

LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY CO., LTD.,
MINGMING WANG,
and
XINQIANG LU,

aiding and abetting each other and others, both known and unknown to the Grand Jury, did knowingly and intentionally attempt to transport, transmit, and transfer a monetary instrument and funds from a place in the United States to and through a place outside the United States, in an amount exceeding \$10,000, with the intent to promote the carrying on of specified unlawful activity, to wit, felonious narcotics offenses involving controlled substances and listed chemicals (as those terms are defined in the Controlled Substances Act), including the violations charged in Count One of this Indictment.

All in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(a)(2)(A) and 2.

FORFEITURE

1. The allegations contained in Counts One and Two of this Indictment are hereby realleged and incorporated by reference for the purpose of alleging forfeitures, pursuant to the provisions of 21 U.S.C. §§ 853 and 970, and 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1).

2. Upon conviction of a violation of Count One of this Indictment, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846, punishable by imprisonment for more than one year, the defendants,

LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY CO., LTD.,
MINGMING WANG,
and
XINQIANG LU,

shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. §§ 853, any property constituting, or derived from, any proceeds obtained, directly or indirectly, as the result of such offense and any property used, or intended to be used, in any manner or part, to commit, or to facilitate the commission of, the offense.

3. Upon conviction of Count Two of this Indictment, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956, punishable by imprisonment for more than one year, the defendants,

LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY CO., LTD.,
MINGMING WANG,
and
XINQIANG LU,

shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1), any property, real or personal, involved in such offense, and any property traceable to such property.

4. The assets to be forfeited include, but are not limited to, an order of forfeiture in the amount of proceeds obtained from the offense.

5. If any of the property described above as being subject to forfeiture 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, 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 subdivided without difficulty,

the United States shall be entitled to forfeiture of substitute property under the provisions of 21 U.S.C. § 853(p), directly and as incorporated by 18 U.S.C. § 982(b)(1).

A TRUE BILL,

[REDACTED]

Foreperson

ROGER B. HANDBERG
United States Attorney

By:

[REDACTED]

By:

[REDACTED]

No.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
Middle District of Florida
Tampa Division

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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LIHE PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY CO. LTD.,
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INDICTMENT

Violations: 21 U.S.C. § 846
18 U.S.C. § 1956

A true bill.

Foreperson

Filed in open court this 27th day

of September 2023.

Clerk

Bail \$