UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA v. AKMAL RASULOV, and ISKANDER SHUKUROV, Defendants.	**SEALED INDICTMENT** 26 Cr. 26 CRIM 217

Overview

1. Between at least in or about 2021 and in or about 2025, AKMAL RASULOV and ISKANDER SHUKUROV, the defendants, along with others known and unknown, operated an alien smuggling business that arranged the transportation to the United States of dozens of foreign nationals with no legal entitlement to enter this country. RASULOV, SHUKUROV and others charged thousands of United States dollars per person for each foreign national—most commonly citizens of Uzbekistan—whom they illegally transported into the United States. RASULOV, SHUKUROV, and their co-conspirators arranged for the foreign nationals to either arrive at a U.S. port of entry without prior permission to enter the United States, or sneak across a land border without the required examination or inspection by immigration officers.

2. AKMAL RASULOV, the defendant, is a citizen of Uzbekistan, and a lawful permanent resident of the United States. RASULOV coordinated and facilitated the smuggling and unlawful transportation of aliens, receiving payments from the alien smuggling scheme's customers and moving money to smugglers in Mexico to facilitate the transportation.

3. ISKANDER SHUKUROV, the defendant, is an Uzbek citizen living in the United States without legal status. He worked with AKMAL RASULOV, the defendant, to coordinate and facilitate the smuggling of aliens and related money transfers and considered himself

RASULOV's partner in the alien smuggling operation.

4. AKMAL RASULOV and ISKANDER SHUKUROV, the defendants, worked with coconspirators, including a Mexican citizen living in Mexico ("CC-1"). RASULOV and SHUKUROV sent money to CC-1 multiple times, intending that CC-1 would coordinate the meeting of aliens and alien smugglers in Mexico, and then facilitate the transportation of the aliens from Mexico into the United States. RASULOV and SHUKUROV used international wire transfers to pay CC-1 for these services, including transfers from financial accounts in New York, New York. Some of the wire transfers included false information indicating that the payments were for "loan repayment" or "legal fees" to conceal the true purpose of the transactions.

Statutory Allegations

COUNT ONE
(Conspiracy to Commit Alien Smuggling)

The Grand Jury charges:

5. From at least in or about 2021 through at least in or about January 2025, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, AKMAL RASULOV and ISKANDER SHUKUROV, the defendants, and others known and unknown, willfully and knowingly combined, conspired, confederated, and agreed together and with each other to commit an offense against the United States, to wit, to violate Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii).

6. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that AKMAL RASULOV and ISKANDER SHUKUROV, the defendants, and others known and unknown, knowing and in reckless disregard of the fact that aliens had not received prior official authorization to come to, enter, and reside in the United States, did bring and attempt to bring to the United States said aliens, for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii).

7. In furtherance of said conspiracy and to effect the illegal object thereof, the following overt acts, among others, were committed in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere:

a. In or about January 2022, ISKANDER SHUKUROV, the defendant, sent an envelope containing passports of Uzbek nationals who were to be smuggled into the United States to CC-1, who was located in Mexico.

b. On or about April 22, 2022, ISKANDER SHUKUROV, the defendant, sent $6,400 from a bank in New York, New York to an account in Mexico controlled by CC-1, with the memo falsely designating the payment as for "LOAN REPAYMENT."

c. On or about May 23, 2022, AKMAL RASULOV, the defendant, sent $18,000 from a bank in New York, New York to an account in Mexico controlled by CC-1, with the memo falsely designating the payment as for "legal fees."

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.)

COUNT TWO
(Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering)

The Grand Jury further charges:

8. From at least in or about December 2021 through at least in or about May 2022, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, AKMAL RASULOV and ISKANDER SHUKUROV, the defendants, and others known and unknown, willfully and knowingly combined, conspired, confederated, and agreed together and with each other to commit money laundering, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(2)(A).

9. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that AKMAL RASULOV and ISKANDER SHUKUROV, the defendants, and others known and unknown, would and did transport, transmit, and transfer, and 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 and to a place in the United States from and through a place outside the United States, with the intent to promote the carrying on of specified unlawful activity, to wit, bringing certain aliens into the United States in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(2)(A).

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).)

FORFEITURE ALLEGATIONS

10. As a result of committing the offense alleged in Count One of this Indictment, AKMAL RASULOV and ISKANDER SHUKUROV, the defendants, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(b) and Title 18 United States Code Section 982(a)(6), all conveyances, including any vessel, vehicle, or aircraft, used in the commission of said offense, and all property traceable to such conveyances; the gross proceeds of said offense, and all property traceable to such proceeds; all property, real and personal, that constitutes or is derived from or is traceable to the proceeds obtained directly or indirectly from the commission of the offense; and all property, real or personal, that was used to facilitate, or was intended to be used to facilitate, the commission of said offense, including but not limited to a sum of money in United States currency representing the amount of proceeds traceable to the commission of said offense.

11. As a result of committing the offense alleged in Count Two of this Indictment, AKMAL RASULOV and ISKANDER SHUKUROV, the defendants, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1), any and all property, real and personal, involved in said offense, or any property traceable to such property, including but not

limited to a sum of money in United States currency representing the amount of property involved in said offense.

12. If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendants:

a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;

b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third person;

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;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

(Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324;
Title 18, United States Code, Section 982;
Title 21, United States Code, Section 853; and
Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461.)

[redacted] 5/27/26
FOREPERSON

Jay Clayton
JAY CLAYTON
United States Attorney