

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

VAGAN GULIAN,
ZHIRAYR GUMRUYAN,
SEVAK KOCHARIAN,
ARAIK SETRAKIAN,
VITALY KOSHELAN,
ARKADY PASTIN,
JASHANPREET SINGH, and
EDGAR BEZHANIAN,

Defendants.

INDICTMENT

S1 26 Cr. 270

The Grand Jury charges:

BACKGROUND

Overview of the Scheme

1. From at least in or around March 2023, up to and including the date of the filing of this Indictment, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, VAGAN GULIAN, ZHIRAYR GUMRUYAN, SEVAK KOCHARIAN, ARAIK SETRAKIAN, VITALY KOSHELAN, ARKADY PASTIN, JASHANPREET SINGH, and EDGAR BEZHANIAN, the defendants, together with others known and unknown, carried out a large-scale, organized scheme to steal cargo from commercial shippers (the “Cargo Theft Enterprise”). In total, the Cargo Theft Enterprise stole goods worth at least approximately \$10 million.

2. The Cargo Theft Enterprise operated throughout the United States and targeted high-value merchandise including electronics, liquor, meat, fish, eggs, clothing, skincare products, and cryptocurrency mining machines, among numerous other items. The defendants and other members of the Cargo Theft Enterprise perpetrated their scheme by diverting, possessing,

transporting, and selling numerous loads of stolen merchandise. The Cargo Theft Enterprise relied on the coordinated efforts of at least one “dispatcher” located abroad and facilitators, drivers, and workers located in the United States.

3. In a typical theft, at least one member of the Cargo Theft Enterprise fraudulently impersonated a legitimate shipping carrier, or other shipping supply chain personnel and companies, to obtain a contract to transport goods from a shipping company to a customer. Other members of the Cargo Theft Enterprise then picked up the load or otherwise diverted the truck containing the load away from its intended destination, including by altering the delivery address and other information on shipping paperwork, and by removing geolocation tracking devices affixed to shipped cargo to track its location and ensure it reaches its proper destination. Once the truck reached the Cargo Theft Enterprise’s intended destination, members of the scheme offloaded and sold the stolen merchandise—including to co-conspirators known as “fences,” who knowingly purchased and resold stolen merchandise on the secondary market—for an illicit profit.

The Defendants

4. VAGAN GULIAN, the defendant, is a citizen of Russia and a member of the Cargo Theft Enterprise. ZHIRAYR GUMRUYAN, the defendant, is a dual citizen of the United States and Armenia and a member of the Cargo Theft Enterprise. At all times relevant to the charges in this Indictment, GULIAN and GUMRUYAN resided in California. Among other things, GULIAN and GUMRUYAN oversaw the Cargo Theft Enterprise’s activities in the United States, including by coordinating with other members of the scheme regarding the quantities and pricing of stolen merchandise.

5. SEVAK KOCHARIAN and ARAIK SETRAKIAN, the defendants, are citizens of Russia and members of the Cargo Theft Enterprise. At all times relevant to the charges in this Indictment, KOCHARIAN and SETRAKIAN resided in California and New York. Among other

things, KOCHARIAN and SETRAKIAN coordinated and executed the transportation of stolen loads, communicated with drivers and warehouse operators, and advertised and sold stolen merchandise.

6. VITALY KOSHELAN, ARKADIY PASTIN, and JASHANPREET SINGH, the defendants, are citizens of Ukraine, the United States, and India, respectively, and members of the Cargo Theft Enterprise. Among other things, KOSHELAN, PASTIN, and SINGH transported and offloaded stolen merchandise in furtherance of the Cargo Theft Enterprise.

7. EDGAR BEZHANIAN, the defendant, is a citizen of Armenia and a member of the Cargo Theft Enterprise. At all times relevant to the charges in this Indictment, BEZHANIAN is believed to have resided in Eastern Europe, including Armenia. Among other things, BEZHANIAN altered information on shipping paperwork and communicated with members of the Cargo Theft Enterprise about when and where a fraudulently obtained load should be picked up and where it should be delivered.

The Defendants Steal Commercial Goods Worth Millions of Dollars

8. Members of the Cargo Theft Enterprise, including the defendants, stole numerous loads of commercial goods totaling millions of dollars in value. Members of the Cargo Theft Enterprise, including the defendants, stole the following loads, among others:

The December 2024 Load

9. In or around December 2024, members of the Cargo Theft Enterprise stole a load of whiskey worth over approximately \$360,000 (the “December 2024 Load”). The December 2024 Load was intended to be shipped from Texas to New Jersey. On or about February 25, 2025, SEVAK KOCHARIAN and ARAIK SETRAKIAN, the defendants, attended a meeting at a warehouse in New Jersey (the “Warehouse”). During that meeting, KOCHARIAN and SETRAKIAN stated that they had in their possession approximately 8,000 bottles of the December

2024 Load, indicated the market price, and attempted to sell the bottles for an amount far below the market price. KOCHARIAN and SETRAKIAN further sought to obtain access to warehouses to temporarily store high volumes of additional stolen merchandise, discussed pricing for such warehouse use, indicated that they swapped out license plates of trucks transporting stolen merchandise, and discussed the removal of geolocation tracking devices from pallets of stolen merchandise. At another meeting in Brooklyn, New York on or about March 10, 2025, KOCHARIAN and SETRAKIAN sold approximately 200 bottles of the December 2024 Load for an amount far below the market price.

The May 2025 Load

10. In or around May 2025, members of the Cargo Theft Enterprise stole a load of skincare and hair care products worth over approximately \$114,000 (the “May 2025 Load”). The May 2025 Load was intended to be shipped from Ohio to California. On or about May 8 and May 9, 2025, ARAIK SETRAKIAN, the defendant, sent electronic messages regarding the delivery of the May 2025 Load to the Warehouse. In those messages, SETRAKIAN stated that VITALY KOSHELAN, the defendant, would drive the truck carrying the May 2025 Load. On or about May 9, 2025, KOSHELAN arrived at the Warehouse, paid approximately \$2,000 in cash for use of the Warehouse to temporarily store the May 2025 Load, and cut open boxes to obtain samples of stolen merchandise. That same day, ARKADIY PASTIN, the defendant, arrived at the Warehouse and put a portion of the May 2025 Load onto a truck. While at the Warehouse, KOSHELAN explained that PASTIN would make an initial delivery and return for the remaining portion of the May 2025 Load. PASTIN then left the Warehouse in a truck with a portion of the May 2025 Load and delivered it to a truckyard in New Jersey. PASTIN returned to the Warehouse, loaded the remaining portion of the May 2025 Load onto the truck, left the Warehouse in the truck, crossed the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge, and parked in Queens.

The June 2025 Load

11. In or around June 2025, members of the Cargo Theft Enterprise stole a load of approximately 23,400 dozen eggs worth approximately \$51,000 (the "June 2025 Load"). The June 2025 Load was intended to be shipped from Pennsylvania to Utah. On or about June 2, 2025, ARAIK SETRAKIAN, the defendant, sent electronic messages regarding the delivery of the June 2025 Load to the Warehouse. On or about the same date, a truck carrying the June 2025 Load arrived at the Warehouse. At approximately the same time, EDGAR BEZHANIAN, the defendant, directed ARKADIY PASTIN, the defendant, to pick up the June 2025 Load from the Warehouse and provided him with the address. PASTIN thereafter arrived at the Warehouse in a truck. PASTIN transferred most of the June 2025 Load into the truck and left the Warehouse. The remainder of the June 2025 Load remained in the Warehouse overnight. On or about the next day, SETRAKIAN attempted to sell the remainder of the June 2025 Load.

The First July 2025 Load

12. In or around July 2025, members of the Cargo Theft Enterprise stole a load of clothing worth approximately \$1.2 million (the "First July 2025 Load"). The First July 2025 Load was intended to be shipped from North Carolina to Ohio. On or about July 9, 2025, ARAIK SETRAKIAN, the defendant, sent electronic messages regarding the delivery of the First July 2025 Load to the Warehouse. On or about the same date, a truck carrying the First July 2025 Load arrived at the Warehouse.

The Second July 2025 Load

13. In or around July 2025, members of the Cargo Theft Enterprise stole a load of liqueur worth approximately \$300,000 (the "Second July 2025 Load"). The Second July 2025 Load was intended to be shipped from New Jersey to Virginia. On or about July 16, 2025, SEVAK KOCHARIAN, the defendant, sent electronic messages regarding the delivery of the Second July

2025 Load to the Warehouse. KOCHARIAN further attempted to sell the Second July 2025 Load and asked about checking the Second July 2025 Load for geolocation tracking devices. On or about the same date, a truck carrying the Second July 2025 Load arrived at the Warehouse. On or about July 19, 2025, JASHANPREET SINGH, the defendant, sent photographs of the Second July 2025 Load to ARKADIY PASTIN, the defendant. On or about July 21, 2025, KOCHARIAN and SINGH arrived at the Warehouse, checked the Second July 2025 Load for geolocation tracking devices, transferred the load into a truck, and left the Warehouse with the load. SINGH drove the truck to Brooklyn and parked near a warehouse, where another individual transferred the Second July 2025 Load into another truck.

COUNT ONE
(Conspiracy to Transport and Possess Stolen Property)

14. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 13 of this Indictment are repeated and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

15. From at least in or around March 2023, up to and including the date of the filing of this Indictment, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, VAGAN GULIAN, ZHIRAYR GUMRUYAN, SEVAK KOCHARIAN, ARAIK SETRAKIAN, VITALY KOSHELAN, ARKADIY PASTIN, JASHANPREET SINGH, and EDGAR BEZHANIAN, the defendants, together with others known and unknown, willfully and knowingly did combine, conspire, confederate, and agree together and with each other to commit offenses against the United States, to wit, the transportation and possession of stolen goods in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2314 and 2315.

16. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that VAGAN GULIAN, ZHIRAYR GUMRUYAN, SEVAK KOCHARIAN, ARAIK SETRAKIAN, VITALY KOSHELAN, ARKADIY PASTIN, JASHANPREET SINGH, and EDGAR BEZHANIAN, the defendants,

together with others known and unknown, would and did transport, transmit, and transfer in interstate and foreign commerce any goods, wares, merchandise, securities, and money, of the value of \$5,000 and more, knowing the same to have been stolen, converted, and taken by fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2314, to wit, VAGAN GULIAN, ZHIRAYR GUMRUYAN, SEVAK KOCHARIAN, ARAIK SETRAKIAN, VITALY KOSHELAN, ARKADIY PASTIN, JASHANPREET SINGH, and EDGAR BEZHANIAN agreed to and did transport in interstate commerce goods valued at \$5,000 and more which were stolen from commercial shipping trucks, and which they knew had been stolen.

17. It was further a part and an object of the conspiracy that VAGAN GULIAN, ZHIRAYR GUMRUYAN, SEVAK KOCHARIAN, ARAIK SETRAKIAN, VITALY KOSHELAN, ARKADIY PASTIN, JASHANPREET SINGH, and EDGAR BEZHANIAN, the defendants, together with others known and unknown, would and did receive, possess, conceal, store, barter, sell, and dispose of goods, wares, merchandise, securities, and money, of the value of \$5,000 and more, which had crossed a State or United States boundary after being stolen, unlawfully converted, and taken, knowing the same to have been stolen, unlawfully converted, and taken, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2315, to wit, VAGAN GULIAN, ZHIRAYR GUMRUYAN, SEVAK KOCHARIAN, ARAIK SETRAKIAN, VITALY KOSHELAN, ARKADIY PASTIN, JASHANPREET SINGH, and EDGAR BEZHANIAN agreed to and did possess goods valued at \$5,000 and more which had crossed a State boundary after being stolen from commercial shipping trucks, and which they knew had been stolen.

Overt Acts

18. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the illegal objects thereof, the overt acts described in paragraphs 9 through 13 of this Indictment, as well as following additional overt acts, among others, were committed in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere:

a. On or about March 23, 2023, SEVAK KOCHARIAN, the defendant, sent electronic photographs to VAGAN GULIAN, the defendant, of a bill of lading for merchandise stolen or pursued in connection with the Cargo Theft Enterprise, as well as screenshots of webpages listing products and their prices.

b. On or about March 2, 2024, KOCHARIAN sent electronic photographs to GULIAN of a bill of lading for merchandise stolen or pursued in connection with the Cargo Theft Enterprise, as well as screenshots of webpages and spreadsheets listing products and their prices. On or about the same date, GULIAN forwarded several of the photographs to ZHIRAYR GUMRUYAN, the defendant, who inquired about the pricing of the merchandise.

c. On or about March 22, 2024, GULIAN and KOCHARIAN discussed certain challenges in transporting a load of stolen merchandise, including the unavailability of a particular truck driver.

d. On or about March 22, 2025, EDGAR BEZHANIAN, the defendant, and KOCHARIAN discussed quantities of goods stolen or pursued in connection with the Cargo Theft Enterprise.

e. On or about April 1, 2025, KOCHARIAN sent electronic photographs to GULIAN of a bill of lading and a shipment sticker for goods stolen or pursued in connection with the Cargo Theft Enterprise.

f. On or about April 5, 2025, GUMRUYAN sent an electronic photograph to GULIAN of pallets of boxes of merchandise stolen or pursued in connection with the Cargo Theft Enterprise.

g. Between on or about May 20, 2025 and May 22, 2025, ARAIK SETRAKIAN, the defendant, sent electronic messages coordinating the delivery of merchandise stolen or pursued in connection with the Cargo Theft Enterprise. On or about May 22, 2025, a truck containing the stolen merchandise drove from New Jersey to the Bronx, New York.

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

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

19. As a result of committing the offense charged in Count One of this Indictment, VAGAN GULIAN, ZHIRAYR GUMRUYAN, SEVAK KOCHARIAN, ARAIK SETRAKIAN, VITALY KOSHELAN, ARKADIY PASTIN, JASHANPREET SINGH, and EDGAR BEZHANIAN, the defendants, 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(c), any and all property, real or personal, that constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to 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 and any and all goods and merchandise stolen in connection with the offense charged in Count One.

Substitute Assets Provision

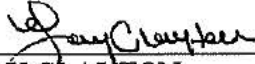
20. If any of the above described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendants: (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; (b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third person; (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court; (d) 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 defendants up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 981;
Title 21, United States Code, Section 853; and
Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461.)



FOREPERSON



JAY CLAYTON
United States Attorney

6/30/26