

Approved: S/ David J. Robles / OTW  
David J. Robles  
Assistant United States Attorney

Before: THE HONORABLE ONA T. WANG  
United States Magistrate Judge  
Southern District of New York

**20 MAG 11389**

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :  
:  
- v. - :  
:  
AQUILINO TORRES, :  
:  
Defendant. :  
:  
:  
- - - - - X

**SEALED COMPLAINT**  
Violations of 18  
U.S.C. §§ 1201(a)(1),  
(b), (g), and 2.  
COUNTY OF OFFENSE:  
NEW YORK

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ss.:

Special Agent John P. Retsis, being duly sworn,  
deposes and says that he is a Special Agent with the Federal  
Bureau of Investigation, and charges as follows:

COUNT ONE  
(Kidnapping of Victim-1)

1. From at least on or about October 5, 2020, up to  
and including on or about October 10, 2020, in the Southern  
District of New York and elsewhere, AQUILINO TORRES, the  
defendant, knowingly and unlawfully seized, confined, inveigled,  
decoyed, kidnapped, abducted, and carried away and held for  
ransom and reward and otherwise a person by willfully  
transporting that person in interstate and foreign commerce and  
using the mail and any means, facility, and instrumentality of  
interstate and foreign commerce in committing and in furtherance  
of the commission of the offense, and did fail to release the  
person within twenty-four hours after the person was unlawfully  
seized, confined, inveigled, decoyed, kidnapped, abducted, and  
carried away, to wit, TORRES kidnapped an adult female ("Victim-  
1") by unlawfully confining Victim-1 for more than twenty-four  
hours within various locations in the Bronx and Manhattan, and  
used a cellular phone to communicate threats to Victim-1 and

arrange transportation and lodging in furtherance of the commission of the offense.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1201(a)(1), (b), and 2.)

Count Two  
(Kidnapping of Minor Victim-1)

2. From at least on or about October 5, 2020, up to and including on or about October 10, 2020, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, AQUILINO TORRES, the defendant, knowingly and unlawfully seized, confined, inveigled, decoyed, kidnapped, abducted, and carried away and held for ransom and reward and otherwise a person by willfully transporting that person in interstate and foreign commerce and using the mail and any means, facility, and instrumentality of interstate and foreign commerce in committing and in furtherance of the commission of the offense, and did fail to release the person within twenty-four hours after the person was unlawfully seized, confined, inveigled, decoyed, kidnapped, abducted, and carried away, and TORRES, having attained the age of 18 years, was not a parent, a grandparent, a brother, a sister, an aunt, an uncle, or an individual having legal custody of the person, who had not attained the age of 18 years, to wit, TORRES kidnapped Victim-1's seven-year-old son ("Minor Victim-1"), by unlawfully confining Minor Victim-1 with Victim-1 for more than twenty-four hours within various locations in the Bronx and Manhattan, and used a cellular phone to communicate threats to Victim-1 and arrange transportation and lodging in furtherance of the commission of the offense.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1201(a)(1), (b), (g) and 2.)

The bases for my knowledge and for the foregoing charges are, in part, as follows:

3. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"). I have been personally involved in the investigation of this matter, and I base this affidavit on that experience, on my conversations with other law enforcement officials, and on my examination of various reports and records. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of demonstrating probable cause, it does not include all the facts I have learned during the course of my investigation. Where the contents of documents and the actions, statements, and

conversations of others are reported herein, they are reported in substance and in part, except where otherwise indicated.

4. Based on my conversations with Victim-1, my review of reports prepared by other law enforcement officers, and my review of the contents of Victim-1's cellular phone (the "Victim-1 Cellphone"), I have learned the following, in substance and in part:

a. Victim-1 is an adult female and is the mother of Minor Victim-1, a seven-year-old boy. Victim-1 began dating AQUILINO TORRES, the defendant, in or around the summer of 2020.

b. On or about October 5, 2020, TORRES began sending threatening text messages to Victim-1 stating, in sum and substance, "Come out now. . . . Watch when I catch you. I'ma kick your son's teeth out. . . . I tried to resolve things and you denied my invitation. I'll be around waiting." According to Victim-1, TORRES was upset because TORRES learned that Victim-1 had been unfaithful.

c. Later that same day, in the vicinity of Harlem, New York, TORRES approached Victim-1 and stated, in sum and substance, "If you don't come with me I'll kill your son." Victim-1 feared for her safety and that of Minor Victim-1, and accompanied TORRES to a particular motel in the vicinity of Boston Road in the Bronx, New York (the "Motel"). Upon arriving at the Motel, TORRES told Victim-1, in sum and substance, "I'm gonna stay with [Minor Victim-1], go in there, don't do anything stupid or I'm gonna kill your son. Pay for one night." Victim-1 proceeded to pay for a room in the Motel at TORRES' direction.

d. Upon entering the room at the Motel, TORRES chain locked the door and instructed Victim-1 to put Minor Victim-1 to sleep. TORRES proceeded to strike Minor Victim-1 in the head shortly thereafter. After Minor Victim-1 fell asleep, TORRES took Victim-1 into the bathroom and stated, in sum and substance, "You think you slick." TORRES then began punching Victim-1 several times in the face and body, causing Victim-1 to bleed, and then told Victim-1, in sum and substance, "Swallow it all or I'll hit you again." Following the assault, TORRES had sex with Victim-1 against Victim-1's will. Victim-1 only had sex with TORRES out of fear for her safety and that of Minor Victim-1.

e. On or around the morning of October 6, 2020, TORRES used a mobile payment application to send Victim-1 approximately \$320, and ordered Victim-1 to use that money to rent a particular apartment in the vicinity of Fort Washington Avenue in New York, New York (the "Apartment"). At TORRES' direction, Victim-1 then used the mobile payment application on the Victim-1 Cellphone to make a \$320 payment in order to rent the Apartment. TORRES also instructed Victim-1 to order an Uber taxi to take TORRES, Victim-1, and Minor Victim-1 to the Apartment, which Victim-1 used the Victim-1 Cellphone to do.

f. After arriving at the Apartment, TORRES told Victim-1, in sum and substance, "I'm gonna be like the shirt on your back. No matter where you go, I'll find you."

g. The next day, on or about October 7, 2020, TORRES used a string to tie Victim-1's hands above her head and to a bed frame inside of the Apartment. TORRES told Victim-1, in sum and substance, that he would kill Minor Victim-1 if Victim-1 attempted to escape. TORRES took the Victim-1 Cellphone and left the Apartment, leaving Victim-1 and Minor Victim-1 in the Apartment. When TORRES returned to the Apartment later that day, he began to snort cocaine in front of Victim-1 and Minor Victim-1.

h. Between on or about October 7, 2020 and on or about October 10, 2020, TORRES forced Victim-1 and Minor Victim-1 to stay in the Apartment. During this time, TORRES used the Victim-1 Cellphone and did not allow Victim-1 to have access to the Victim-1 Cellphone outside of his presence. TORRES also had sexual intercourse with Victim-1 against Victim-1's will on at least one occasion during this time period.

i. On or about October 10, 2020, TORRES became agitated and began physically assaulting Victim-1 inside of the Apartment by choking and hitting her in the face and body. During the assault, TORRES instructed Victim-1 to tell Minor Victim-1 to look away. When Minor Victim-1 failed to do so, TORRES proceeded to strike Minor Victim-1 in the head.

j. Later that day, TORRES temporarily left the Apartment and left behind the Victim-1 Cellphone. Victim-1 then escaped, leaving the Apartment with Minor Victim-1 and the Victim-1 Cellphone. Victim-1 used the Victim-1 Cellphone to call a taxi and flee the Apartment.

k. Starting at approximately 10:22 p.m. that day, and for approximately one hour thereafter, TORRES sent the Victim-1 Cellphone several text messages threatening to go look for Victim-1. For example, the messages stated, in substance and in part, "If I make the decision to go looking for you[,] there won't be turning back," and "I'm going to look for you . . . I put GPS on your phone." TORRES also threatened to post a naked photograph of Victim-1 online if Victim-1 did not respond to TORRES' messages, and sent the naked photograph to Victim-1.

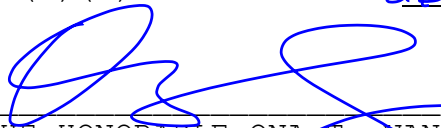
l. After escaping from TORRES, Victim-1 was admitted to a hospital emergency room, where she was found to have a broken jaw in multiple locations, requiring surgery.

WHEREFORE, deponent respectfully requests that a warrant be issued for the arrest of AQUILINO TORRES, the defendant, and that he be arrested, and imprisoned or bailed, as the case may be.

*s/John P. Retsis /otw*

Special Agent John P. Retsis **Cred. No. 28936**  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to me through the transmission of this Affidavit by reliable electronic means, pursuant to Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 41(d)(3) and 4.1 this 26<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020

  
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THE HONORABLE ONA T. WANG  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK