

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

- - - - - X
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : SEALED INDICTMENT
:
- v. - : 21 Cr.
:
MIGUEL COMPRES, :
:
Defendant. :
- - - - - X

COUNT ONE
(Conspiracy)

The Grand Jury charges:

1. The charges set forth herein arise from a scheme whereby MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, while employed as a correction officer ("CO") by the New York City Department of Correction ("DOC"), smuggled contraband into a DOC jail, in exchange for cash bribes.

2. Specifically, from at least in or about November 2019 up through and including in or about August 2020, MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, introduced or attempted to introduce scalpels, cellphones, and other contraband to three inmates ("Inmate-1," "Inmate-2," and "Inmate-3") in the Manhattan Detention Complex ("MDC"), a DOC jail in downtown Manhattan. In return, COMPRES received cash payments from inmates and their associates.

3. At all times relevant to this Indictment, MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, was employed as a CO at the MDC. The primary duty of COs is to ensure the care, custody, and control of the inmate population of the DOC. In connection with this duty, such officers participate in inspections and searches of inmates and DOC facilities, and are tasked with, among other things, ensuring that contraband is not brought into the MDC. DOC employees, including COMPRES, receive training on employee rules and regulations, which prohibit employees from, among other things, entering into transactions with inmates and providing inmates with contraband.

Introduction of Contraband into the MDC for Inmate-1

4. From at least in or about November 2019 up through and including in or about August 2020, MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, introduced scalpels, cellphones, and other contraband, into the MDC for Inmate-1.

5. In or about November 2019, Inmate-1 placed telephone calls to an associate ("Associate-1"), in which they discussed scalpels of a particular size. On the same date as one of the calls, Associate-1 and MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant,

communicated approximately 43 times.

6. On or about November 3, 2019, MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, met with Associate-1 to retrieve contraband for Inmate-1.

7. In or about April 2020, Inmate-1 placed calls to Associate-1, in which they discussed procuring a cellphone for Inmate-1 ("Cellphone-1").

8. On or about April 23, 2020, MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, introduced Cellphone-1 into the MDC for Inmate-1, after which date COMPRES and Inmate-1 communicated directly on that phone.

9. In total, MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, received over \$6,000 from Inmate-1 and associates of Inmate-1, in exchange for introducing contraband into the MDC for Inmate-1.

Introduction of Contraband into the MDC for Inmate-2

10. From at least in or about December 2019 up through and including in or about February 2020, MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, introduced a cellphone and other contraband into the MDC for Inmate-2.

11. Beginning in or about December 2019, Inmate-2 placed a series of telephone calls to a female associate ("Associate-2") in which Inmate-2 and Associate-2 discussed payment to an individual for, among other things, a cellphone. Associate-2 and MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, exchanged a series of text

messages regarding payment and a cellphone, which Associate-2 related to Inmate-2.

12. Beginning in or about February 2020, Inmate-2 placed a series of telephone calls to another female associate ("Associate-3"), in which Inmate-2 and Associate-3 discussed marijuana in code. Associate-3, in turn, communicated with MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, by text message on several occasions to discuss payment and meeting locations.

13. In exchange for introducing contraband into the MDC for Inmate-2, MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, received Cash App payments from associates of Inmate-2. Cash App is a smartphone application that permits users to transfer funds and accompanying messages.

Introduction of Contraband into the MDC for Inmate-3

14. From at least in or about May 2020 up through and including in or about July 2020, MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, introduced a cellphone and scalpels into the MDC for Inmate-3.

15. To facilitate the introduction of contraband, MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, communicated directly with two associates of Inmate-3.

16. In exchange for introducing contraband into the MDC for Inmate-3, MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant received Cash App payments from family members and associates of Inmate-3.

Statutory Allegations

17. From at least in or about November 2019 up through and including in or about August 2020, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, and 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: (1) bribery, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 666(a)(1)(B) and 666(a)(2); and (2) honest services wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 1346.

18. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, being an agent of a government agency that received, in a one-year period, benefits in excess of \$10,000 under a Federal program involving a grant, contract, subsidy, loan, guarantee, insurance, and other form of Federal assistance, to wit, the DOC, corruptly would and did solicit and demand for the benefit of a person, and accept and agree to accept, something of value from a person, intending to be influenced and rewarded in connection with a business, transaction, and series of transactions of such government agency involving something of value of \$5,000 and more, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(1)(B).

19. It was further a part and an object of the conspiracy that MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, willfully and knowingly,

having devised and intending to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud, and to deprive his employer of the right to his honest services, would and did transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire, radio, and television communication in interstate and foreign commerce, writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds, for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 1346.

Overt Acts

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

a. On or about April 23, 2020, MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, introduced Cellphone-1 into the MDC for Inmate-1, in exchange for a cash bribe.

b. In or about December 2019, MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, introduced a cellphone into the MDC for Inmate-2, in exchange for a cash bribe.

c. Between in or about May 2020 and in or about July 2020, MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, introduced scalpels and a cellphone into the MDC for Inmate-3, in exchange for a cash bribe.

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

COUNT TWO
(Bribery)

The Grand Jury further charges:

21. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 16 of this Indictment are repeated and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

22. From at least in or about November 2019 up through and including in or about August 2020, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, being an agent of a government agency that received, in a one-year period, benefits in excess of \$10,000 under a Federal program involving a grant, contract, subsidy, loan, guarantee, insurance, and other form of Federal assistance, to wit, the DOC, corruptly solicited and demanded for the benefit of a person, and accepted and agreed to accept, a thing of value from a person, intending to be influenced and rewarded in connection with a business, transaction, and series of transactions of such government agency involving a thing of value of \$5,000 and more, to wit, COMPRES, in his capacity as a CO employed by the DOC, accepted and agreed to accept cash payments in exchange for smuggling contraband into the MDC for Inmate-1, Inmate-2, and Inmate-3.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 666(a)(1)(B) and 2)

COUNT THREE
(Honest Services Wire Fraud)

The Grand Jury further charges:

23. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 16 of this Indictment are repeated and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

24. From at least in or about November 2019 up through and including in or about August 2020, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, willfully and knowingly, having devised and intending to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud, and to deprive his employer of its intangible right to his honest services, did transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire, radio, and television communication in interstate and foreign commerce, writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, to wit, COMPRES, in his capacity as a CO employed by the DOC, accepted and agreed to accept cash payments in exchange for smuggling contraband into the MDC for Inmate-1, Inmate-2, and Inmate-3, and facilitated those exchanges through telephone calls in interstate commerce.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343, 1346, and 2.)

FORFEITURE ALLEGATIONS

25. As a result of committing the offenses alleged in Counts One through Three of this Indictment, MIGUEL COMPRES, the defendant, 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 and personal, that constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the commission of said offenses, including but not limited to a sum of money in United States currency representing the amount of proceeds traceable to the commission of said offenses.

Substitute Assets Provision

26. If any of the above-described forfeitable property, 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 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), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant 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

Audrey Strauss

AUDREY STRAUSS
United States Attorney

Form No. USA-33s-274 (Ed. 9-25-58)

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v.

MIGUEL COMPRES

Defendant.

INDICTMENT

21 Cr.

(18 U.S.C. §§ 371, 666, 1343,
1346, and 2.)

AUDREY STRAUSS

United States Attorney


Foreperson
