

ECF

**U.S. District Court
Southern District of New York (Foley Square)
CRIMINAL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:16-mj-01881-LTS-1**

Case title: USA v. In re: Unsealing Request of The New York
Times Company

Date Filed: 03/21/2016

Assigned to: Judge Laura Taylor Swain

Defendant (1)

**In re: Unsealing Request of The New
York Times Company**

Pending Counts

None

Disposition

Highest Offense Level (Opening)

None

Terminated Counts

None

Disposition

Highest Offense Level (Terminated)

None

Complaints

None

Disposition

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LEAD ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED
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Date Filed	#	Docket Text
03/21/2016	2	LETTER by In re: Unsealing Request of The New York Times Company addressed to Judge Laura Taylor Swain from David McGraw dated March 16, 2016 re: Request for 45 Sealed Documents in Case number 13 CR 521 LTS be made public or that the parties be required to demonstrate why the documents should remain under seal, and for a right to file a response or be heard regarding any party submissions. (vb) (Entered: 03/22/2016)
03/22/2016	1	ORDER as to In re: Unsealing Request of The New York Times Company. The Clerk of the Court is requested to open a new Magistrate matter captioned "In re Unsealing Request of The New York Times Company, and is ordered to assign the matter to the docket of the undersigned, and designate it for ECF filing and docket the Times letter as well as this order in the matter. The Times may appear in the Magistrate matter by counsel and move for the unsealing of any or all of the documents filed under seal in case no. 13 CR 521 LTS, which motion is to be filed no later than March 25, 2016. Counsel for the Government and the defendants in the Criminal case may file in the Magistrate Matter a response to the Time's request no later than April 15, 2016. It is further ordered that counsel may submit ex parte any request to file their response under seal, no later than April 12, 2016. Counsel previously appointed under CJA for defendants who have already been sentenced by this court are hereby reappointed as CJA counsel for the limited purpose of appearing in the Magistrate matter to address the Times' request. (Signed by Judge Laura Taylor Swain on 3/21/16)(vb) (Entered: 03/22/2016)
03/24/2016		Attorney update in case as to In re: Unsealing Request of The New York Times Company. Attorney Aimee Hector,Anna Margaret Skotko,Emil Joseph Bove, III,Michael Dennis Lockard,Rachel Peter Kovner for USA,Robert William Ray for Carl David Stillwell,Susan Gail Kellman,Sarah Kunstler for Adam Samia,William Joseph Stampur for Slawomir Soborski,Glenn Andrew Garber for Dennis Gogel,Bobbi C Sternheim for Timothy Vamvakias,Richard Harris Rosenberg for Michael Filter,Diane Ferrone,Marlon Geoffrey Kirton for Joseph Manuel Hunter added.. (vb) (Entered: 03/24/2016)
03/24/2016		Case Designated ECF as to In re: Unsealing Request of The New York Times Company. (vb) (Entered: 03/24/2016)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

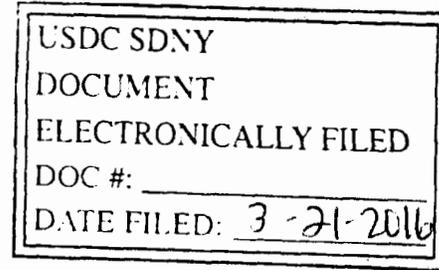
-----x
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

-v-

JOSEPH MANUEL HUNTER, et al.,

Defendants.

-----x



No. 13 CR 521-LTS

ORDER

The Court has received a request from third party The New York Times Company (the "Times"), dated March 16, 2016, to unseal 45 documents filed under seal in this matter.

Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the Clerk of Court is respectfully requested to open a new Magistrate matter captioned "In re Unsealing Request of The New York Times Company," assign that matter to the docket of the undersigned, designate it for ECF filing, and docket the Times' letter (which is attached to this Order) as well as this Order in that matter, and it is further

ORDERED, that the Times may appear in the Magistrate matter by counsel and move for the unsealing of any or all of the documents filed under seal in case no. 13 CR 521-LTS, which motion is to be filed no later than **March 25, 2016**, and it is further

ORDERED, that counsel for the Government and for the Defendants in the above-captioned criminal case may file, in the Magistrate matter, a response to the Times' request not later than **April 15, 2016**, and it is further

ORDERED, that counsel may submit ex parte any request to file their response under seal, which request must be submitted no later than **April 12, 2016**, and it is further

ORDERED, that counsel previously appointed under the Criminal Justice Act (“CJA”) for Defendants who have already been sentenced by this Court are hereby reappointed as CJA counsel for the limited purpose of appearing in the Magistrate matter to address the Times’ request.

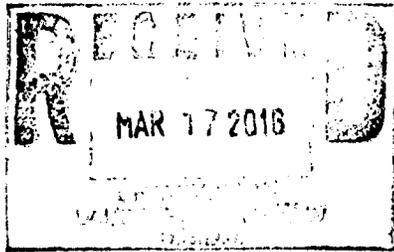
SO ORDERED.

Dated: New York, New York
March 21, 2016


LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN
United States District Judge

Copy mailed to:

David McCraw, Esq.
Vice President and Assistant General Counsel
The New York Times Company
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David McCraw
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March 16, 2016

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

The Honorable Laura T. Swain
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: United States v. Hunter et al. (13 Cr. 521 (LTS))

Dear Judge Swain:

I write on behalf of The New York Times Company (“The Times”) in respect to certain documents that are sealed in the above-referenced action. We believe that the sealing of these materials was done in violation of established law in this circuit, and we respectfully request that the materials be unsealed or that the parties be required to establish why the sealing remains proper. If Your Honor prefers, we are prepared to move by formal motion to intervene and seek the unsealing.

We are specifically concerned about the 45 documents that were filed under seal on various dates from 2013 through 2016.¹ The sheer volume of these documents and their scattered placement across the docket make it impossible for us to know what these documents are. We note that 10 of these documents were filed at the initiation of the case immediately following the filing of the indictment. The remaining sealed documents appear dispersed throughout the docket: For example, some were filed around the time of court conferences (see Docket Nos. 62, 67), others around the entering of guilty pleas (see Docket No. 106, 130) or sentencing submission (see Docket No. 162), and so on.

¹ See Docket Nos. 1–10, 29, 39, 44, 47, 50–53, 57–58, 62, 67, 71–72, 74–75, 90–91, 93, 106, 112–13, 126–27, 130, 140, 162, 186, 219, 229, 234–35, 237, and 241–42.

There is no indication on the docket sheet or in the public case files of the sealed documents' subject matter or of any legal justification or court order instructing the sealing. The public's qualified right to judicial documents arises both at common law and under the First Amendment, and in both instances the Court is required to determine that there are countervailing interests of substantial weight to put aside the public right of access.

The Common-Law Right of Access. The common law creates a public right of access to judicial documents. United States v. Amodeo, 44 F.3d 141, 145 (2d Cir. 1995) (“Amodeo I”). The right is a qualified one that “predate[s] the Constitution,” *id.*, and that is firmly established in the American legal system. See Nixon v. Warner Commc'ns, 435 U.S. 589, 597 (1978) (“It is clear that the courts of this country recognize a general right to inspect and copy public records and documents, including judicial records and documents.”) (internal footnotes omitted); Lugosch v. Pyramid Co. of Onondaga, 435 F.3d 110, 119 (2d Cir. 2006) (“The common law right of public access to judicial documents is firmly rooted in our nation’s history.”). To determine whether the right applies, courts employ a three-step analysis that looks at (1) whether a document is a “judicial document”; (2) if it is, how strong the presumption of access is; and (3) whether countervailing concerns overcome the presumption and justify continued sealing. United States v. Erie Cnty., 763 F.3d 235, 239 (2d Cir. 2014).

While the sealing in this case prevents us from properly applying this analysis to the 45 documents at issue, any document that is “relevant to the performance of the judicial function and useful in the judicial process” qualifies as a judicial document. Lugosch, 435 F.3d at 119 (quoting Amodeo I, 44 F.3d at 145). Once a document is found to be a judicial document, it receives the strongest presumption of access if it plays a role in the Court’s determination of “substantive legal rights,” and the weakest presumption if it plays only a “negligible role” in the court’s performance of its duties. *Id.* Even then, to deny access, the Court must find that “countervailing factors” justify sealing. *Id.* at 120. There are no findings on the record here to demonstrate that the sealing is necessary. To the contrary, any concerns pertaining to a fair trial or ongoing government investigation that may have animated this Court’s provisional sealing have significantly diminished: five defendants have pleaded guilty and, of those, only two are still awaiting sentencing. (See Docket Nos. 250, 254.) While we recognize that there are two defendants awaiting trial, we note that their indictments were not filed until July 22, 2015 (see Docket No. 166), at which point 37 documents were already filed under seal with the Court. Moreover, any countervailing factor can likely be dealt with through limited redaction rather than through complete sealing of over three dozen documents.

The First Amendment Right of Access. Independent of the common-law right of public access, the First Amendment also provides a right of access to judicial documents. Documents are subject to the First Amendment right if they meet the “experience and logic” test, that is, they have been historically open to the press and general public, and if public access “plays a significant positive role in the functioning of the particular process in question.” Lugosch, 435 F.3d at 120 (quoting Press-Enterprise Co. v. Superior Court, 478 U.S. 1, 8 (1986)); see also Hartford Courant Co. v. Pellegrino, 380 F.3d 83, 92 (2d

Cir. 2004); United States v. Suarez, 880 F.2d 626, 630 (2d Cir. 1989). The First Amendment right attaches not only to the proceedings but also to documents that are part of the proceedings, including those at various stages of a criminal case. See Hartford Courant, 380 F.3d at 91–92 (citing cases where the court found a First Amendment right of access to various types of judicial documents and proceedings); United States v. Alcantara, 396 F.3d 189, 197–98 (2d Cir. 2005) (First Amendment right of access to sentencing proceedings); United States v. Haller, 837 F.2d 84 (2d Cir. 1988) (plea agreement); United States v. Nafis, No. 12-cr-720 (CBA), 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 134399 (E.D.N.Y. Sept. 19, 2013) (Government’s sentencing submission).

“Once a First Amendment right of access to judicial documents is found, the documents ‘may be sealed [only] if specific, on the record findings are made demonstrating that closure is essential to preserve higher values and is narrowly tailored to serve that interest.’ And, ‘[b]road and general findings by the trial court . . . are not sufficient to justify closure.’” Erie Cnty., 763 F.3d at 239 (quoting Lugosch, 435 F.3d at 120 (quoting In re New York Times Co., 828 F.2d 110, 116 (2d Cir. 1987))). The party seeking sealing or closure carries the burden of making this showing, which includes both identifying a compelling interest that will be harmed by access and demonstrating that granting access would create a “substantial probability of prejudice” to that interest. See United States v. Doe, 63 F.3d 121, 128–30 (2d Cir. 1995).

Because of the scope of sealing here, it is impossible to address whether the First Amendment right attaches to the materials at issue, whether “higher values” justify restrictions, or whether more narrow tailoring is possible. But the law places the burden on the party seeking sealing to make that case, and there appears to have been no such showing here to justify continued sealing. To the extent the sealing was justified on the basis of fair trial rights or protection of an ongoing investigation, those concerns have dissipated, as discussed above.

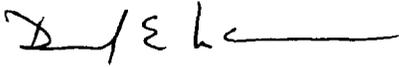
Finally, The Times is unaware of any review undertaken by the Government to “determine if the reasons for closure are still applicable” – a review that the Government is required by Justice Department regulations to conduct 60 days after the termination of “any proceeding . . . until such time as the records are unsealed.” See 28 C.F.R. § 50.9(f). This requirement reflects “the vital public interest in open judicial proceedings” and the Government’s “overriding affirmative duty to oppose their closure.” See 28 C.F.R. § 50.9 (noting a “strong presumption against closing proceedings or portions thereof”).

We therefore ask that all 45 documents be made public or, alternatively, that the parties be required to demonstrate why the documents should remain under seal. If the parties make such a submission, we ask for the right to file a response and otherwise to be heard.

We thank the Court for its consideration of this matter.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D/E McCraw", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David E. McCraw

cc: All Counsel of Record (via email)



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Southern District of New York

The Silvio J. Mollo Building
One Saint Andrew's Plaza
New York, New York 10007

March 22, 2016

Via ECF & Facsimile

Honorable Laura Taylor Swain
United States District Judge
Southern District of New York
Fax: 212-805-0426

Re: United States v. Joseph Hunter, et al.,
13 Cr. 521 (LTS)

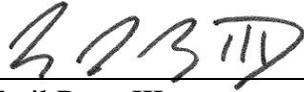
Dear Judge Swain:

The Government respectfully requests that the Court unseal: (i) the S1 through S6 Superseding Indictments and all related arrest warrants; (ii) the Government's September 11, 2013 letter requesting limited unsealing; and (iii) the September 11, 2013 limited unsealing order entered by the Honorable Andrew S. Peck, Magistrate Judge. The Government further requests that the Court direct the clerk to correct the docket sheet to note that: (i) the initial Indictment, 13 Cr. 521 (LTS), was originally filed under seal on or about July 17, 2013 (Dkt. No. 1), but unsealed on or about September 30, 2013 (Dkt. No. 11); and (ii) the Government's September 26, 2013 unsealing requests were originally filed under seal (Dkt. No. 10), but filed publicly (as endorsed by the Honorable Debra Freeman, Magistrate Judge) on or about September 30, 2013 (Dkt. Nos. 18, 25).

Respectfully submitted,

PREET BHARARA
United States Attorney for the
Southern District of New York

By: _____


Emil Bove III
Michael D. Lockard
Assistant United States Attorneys
(212) 637-2444/2193

Cc: Defense Counsel
(Via ECF)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----x

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

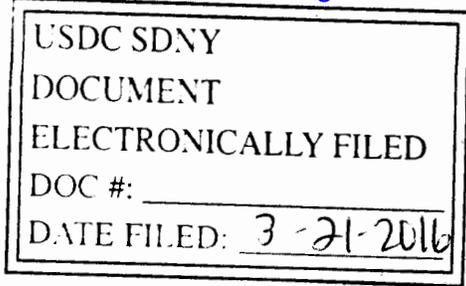
-v-

No. 13 CR 521-LTS

JOSEPH MANUEL HUNTER, et al.,

Defendants.

-----x



ORDER

The Court has received a request from third party The New York Times Company (the "Times"), dated March 16, 2016, to unseal 45 documents filed under seal in this matter.

Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the Clerk of Court is respectfully requested to open a new Magistrate matter captioned "In re Unsealing Request of The New York Times Company," assign that matter to the docket of the undersigned, designate it for ECF filing, and docket the Times' letter (which is attached to this Order) as well as this Order in that matter, and it is further

ORDERED, that the Times may appear in the Magistrate matter by counsel and move for the unsealing of any or all of the documents filed under seal in case no. 13 CR 521-LTS, which motion is to be filed no later than **March 25, 2016**, and it is further

ORDERED, that counsel for the Government and for the Defendants in the above-captioned criminal case may file, in the Magistrate matter, a response to the Times' request not later than **April 15, 2016**, and it is further

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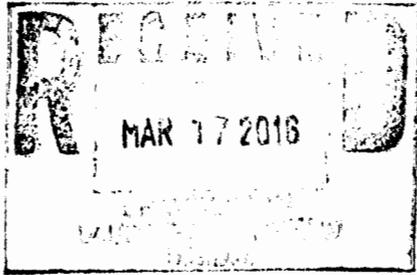
SO ORDERED.

Dated: New York, New York
March 21, 2016


LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN
United States District Judge

Copy mailed to:

David McCraw, Esq.
Vice President and Assistant General Counsel
The New York Times Company
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New York, N.Y. 10018



The New York Times
Company



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Assistant General Counsel

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mccraw@nytimes.com

March 16, 2016

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

The Honorable Laura T. Swain
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: United States v. Hunter et al. (13 Cr. 521 (LTS))

Dear Judge Swain:

I write on behalf of The New York Times Company (“The Times”) in respect to certain documents that are sealed in the above-referenced action. We believe that the sealing of these materials was done in violation of established law in this circuit, and we respectfully request that the materials be unsealed or that the parties be required to establish why the sealing remains proper. If Your Honor prefers, we are prepared to move by formal motion to intervene and seek the unsealing.

We are specifically concerned about the 45 documents that were filed under seal on various dates from 2013 through 2016.¹ The sheer volume of these documents and their scattered placement across the docket make it impossible for us to know what these documents are. We note that 10 of these documents were filed at the initiation of the case immediately following the filing of the indictment. The remaining sealed documents appear dispersed throughout the docket: For example, some were filed around the time of court conferences (see Docket Nos. 62, 67), others around the entering of guilty pleas (see Docket No. 106, 130) or sentencing submission (see Docket No. 162), and so on.

¹ See Docket Nos. 1–10, 29, 39, 44, 47, 50–53, 57–58, 62, 67, 71–72, 74–75, 90–91, 93, 106, 112–13, 126–27, 130, 140, 162, 186, 219, 229, 234–35, 237, and 241–42.

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The Common-Law Right of Access. The common law creates a public right of access to judicial documents. United States v. Amodeo, 44 F.3d 141, 145 (2d Cir. 1995) (“Amodeo I”). The right is a qualified one that “predate[s] the Constitution,” *id.*, and that is firmly established in the American legal system. See Nixon v. Warner Comm’ns, 435 U.S. 589, 597 (1978) (“It is clear that the courts of this country recognize a general right to inspect and copy public records and documents, including judicial records and documents.”) (internal footnotes omitted); Lugosch v. Pyramid Co. of Onondaga, 435 F.3d 110, 119 (2d Cir. 2006) (“The common law right of public access to judicial documents is firmly rooted in our nation’s history.”). To determine whether the right applies, courts employ a three-step analysis that looks at (1) whether a document is a “judicial document”; (2) if it is, how strong the presumption of access is; and (3) whether countervailing concerns overcome the presumption and justify continued sealing. United States v. Erie Cnty., 763 F.3d 235, 239 (2d Cir. 2014).

While the sealing in this case prevents us from properly applying this analysis to the 45 documents at issue, any document that is “relevant to the performance of the judicial function and useful in the judicial process” qualifies as a judicial document. Lugosch, 435 F.3d at 119 (quoting Amodeo I, 44 F.3d at 145). Once a document is found to be a judicial document, it receives the strongest presumption of access if it plays a role in the Court’s determination of “substantive legal rights,” and the weakest presumption if it plays only a “negligible role” in the court’s performance of its duties. *Id.* Even then, to deny access, the Court must find that “countervailing factors” justify sealing. *Id.* at 120. There are no findings on the record here to demonstrate that the sealing is necessary. To the contrary, any concerns pertaining to a fair trial or ongoing government investigation that may have animated this Court’s provisional sealing have significantly diminished: five defendants have pleaded guilty and, of those, only two are still awaiting sentencing. (See Docket Nos. 250, 254.) While we recognize that there are two defendants awaiting trial, we note that their indictments were not filed until July 22, 2015 (see Docket No. 166), at which point 37 documents were already filed under seal with the Court. Moreover, any countervailing factor can likely be dealt with through limited redaction rather than through complete sealing of over three dozen documents.

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Cir. 2004); United States v. Suarez, 880 F.2d 626, 630 (2d Cir. 1989). The First Amendment right attaches not only to the proceedings but also to documents that are part of the proceedings, including those at various stages of a criminal case. See Hartford Courant, 380 F.3d at 91–92 (citing cases where the court found a First Amendment right of access to various types of judicial documents and proceedings); United States v. Alcantara, 396 F.3d 189, 197–98 (2d Cir. 2005) (First Amendment right of access to sentencing proceedings); United States v. Haller, 837 F.2d 84 (2d Cir. 1988) (plea agreement); United States v. Nafis, No. 12-cr-720 (CBA), 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 134399 (E.D.N.Y. Sept. 19, 2013) (Government’s sentencing submission).

“Once a First Amendment right of access to judicial documents is found, the documents ‘may be sealed [only] if specific, on the record findings are made demonstrating that closure is essential to preserve higher values and is narrowly tailored to serve that interest.’ And, ‘[b]road and general findings by the trial court . . . are not sufficient to justify closure.’” Erie Cnty., 763 F.3d at 239 (quoting Lugosch, 435 F.3d at 120 (quoting In re New York Times Co., 828 F.2d 110, 116 (2d Cir. 1987))). The party seeking sealing or closure carries the burden of making this showing, which includes both identifying a compelling interest that will be harmed by access and demonstrating that granting access would create a “substantial probability of prejudice” to that interest. See United States v. Doe, 63 F.3d 121, 128–30 (2d Cir. 1995).

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Finally, The Times is unaware of any review undertaken by the Government to “determine if the reasons for closure are still applicable” – a review that the Government is required by Justice Department regulations to conduct 60 days after the termination of “any proceeding . . . until such time as the records are unsealed.” See 28 C.F.R. § 50.9(f). This requirement reflects “the vital public interest in open judicial proceedings” and the Government’s “overriding affirmative duty to oppose their closure.” See 28 C.F.R. § 50.9 (noting a “strong presumption against closing proceedings or portions thereof”).

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We thank the Court for its consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D/E McCraw', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David E. McCraw

cc: All Counsel of Record (via email)

ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

JUDGE SWAN

----- X
:
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
:
- v. -
:
JOSEPH MANUEL HUNTER,
a/k/a "Frank Robinson,"
a/k/a "Jim Riker,"
a/k/a "Rambo,"
TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS,
a/k/a "Tay,"
DENNIS GOGEL,
a/k/a "Dennis Goegel,"
a/k/a "Nico,"
MICHAEL FILTER,
a/k/a "Paul," and
SLAWOMIR SOBORSKI,
a/k/a "Gerald,"
:
Defendants.
:
----- X

SEALED INDICTMENT

S7 13 Cr. 521

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OVERVIEW

1. JOSEPH HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," the defendant, served in the United States Army from 1983 to 2004. In the years since 2004, HUNTER has acted as a "contract killer"; for pay, he has succeeded in arranging for the murder of a number of people.

2. During 2012 and 2013, JOSEPH HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," the defendant, recruited a team of four former soldiers. Three of these four former soldiers - DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," SLAWOMIR SOBORSKI, a/k/a "Gerald," and MICHAEL FILTER,

a/k/a "Paul," the defendants - had served in the armed forces of certain European countries, and were trained as snipers. One of these four former soldiers, TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," the defendant, had served in the United States Army, until 2004.

3. Along with JOSEPH HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," the defendant, the former soldiers - TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," SLAWOMIR SOBORSKI, a/k/a "Gerald," and MICHAEL FILTER, a/k/a "Paul," the defendants - each joined a conspiracy to import large volumes of cocaine into the United States. As part of this conspiracy, the defendants put their military skills to use - by conducting "counter-surveillance"; by providing security; and by watching over a plane as, the defendants were told, it was being loaded with hundreds of kilograms of cocaine bound for New York.

4. In addition, three of the former soldiers - JOSEPH HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," and DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," the defendants - engaged in a murder-for-hire conspiracy. The object of the murder-for-hire conspiracy was to assist a drug-trafficking organization - by assassinating both a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") and a person who was providing

information about the drug-trafficking organization to the DEA. In furtherance of this murder-for-hire conspiracy, the former soldiers worked to obtain sophisticated weapons (including a machine gun); acquired masks (so that they could kill the DEA agent and the source of information without being detected); and formulated an escape and weapons-disposal plan - which included entering the country where the murders would take place without having their passports stamped. In exchange for the murders, HUNTER, VAMVAKIAS and GOGEL were together to be paid approximately \$700,000, and HUNTER was to receive an additional payment of \$100,000 for his leadership role.

THE DEFENDANTS: FIVE FORMER SOLDIERS

5. JOSEPH MANUEL HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," the defendant, served from 1983 to 2004 in the United States Army, where he attained the rank of sergeant first class. While in the Army, HUNTER led air-assault and airborne-infantry squads; served as a sniper instructor; and trained soldiers in marksmanship and tactics as a senior drill sergeant. Since leaving the Army in 2004, HUNTER, now 48, has arranged for the murders of multiple people in exchange for money, among other completed acts of violence undertaken for pay. HUNTER is a citizen of the United States.

6. TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," the defendant, served from 1991 to 1993 and from 1999 to 2004 in the United States Army, where he attained the rank of sergeant. During his first term of enlistment, VAMVAKIAS spent a year deployed in South Korea and served as an infantryman. During his second term of enlistment, VAMVAKIAS served as a military police officer and was stationed in Puerto Rico. VAMVAKIAS is a citizen of the United States.

7. DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," the defendant, served in the German armed forces from 2007 to 2010, where he attained the rank of corporal. During his time in the German armed forces, GOGEL served as a sniper and received commendations for his sniper skills. He also completed a military deployment to Kosovo. GOGEL is a citizen of Germany.

8. SLAWOMIR SOBORSKI, a/k/a "Gerald," the defendant, served in the Polish armed forces from 1998 to 2002 and from 2003 to 2011, during which time he trained as a sniper and was a member of an elite counter-terrorism unit. Following his military service, SOBORSKI worked as a security contractor in Iraq, Afghanistan, Haiti, and other countries. SOBORSKI is a citizen of Poland.

9. MICHAEL FILTER, a/k/a "Paul," the defendant, served in the German armed forces from 2006 to 2009, where he was trained as a sniper. In 2009, FILTER was deployed to Afghanistan. FILTER later worked for private firms performing security services. FILTER is a citizen of Germany.

COUNT ONE

CONSPIRACY TO IMPORT COCAINE INTO THE UNITED STATES

The Grand Jury charges:

10. From at least in or about 2012, up to and including the date of the filing of this Indictment, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, JOSEPH MANUEL HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," MICHAEL FILTER, a/k/a "Paul," and SLAWOMIR SOBORSKI, a/k/a "Gerald," the defendants, who will first enter the United States in the Southern District of New York, and others known and unknown, intentionally and knowingly did combine, conspire, confederate and agree together and with each other to violate the narcotics laws of the United States.

11. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that JOSEPH MANUEL HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," MICHAEL FILTER,

a/k/a "Paul," and SLAWOMIR SOBORSKI, a/k/a "Gerald," the defendants, and others known and unknown, would and did distribute, and possess with intent to distribute, a controlled substance, to wit, five kilograms and more of mixtures and substances containing a detectable amount of cocaine, intending and knowing that such substance would be imported into the United States from a place outside thereof, in violation of Sections 959, 960(a)(3), and 960(b)(1)(B) of Title 21, United States Code.

OVERT ACTS

12. In furtherance of said conspiracy and to effect the illegal object thereof, JOSEPH MANUEL HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," MICHAEL FILTER, a/k/a "Paul," and SLAWOMIR SOBORSKI, a/k/a "Gerald," the defendants, committed the following overt acts, among others, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere:

Asia: Late 2012 Through Early 2013

HUNTER Recruits a Team of Former European Soldiers

a. During 2012 and early 2013, HUNTER collected resumes via e-mail for prospective members of a security team. In January 2013, HUNTER met with two individuals who held

themselves out as Colombian drug traffickers, but who were in fact confidential sources for the DEA ("CS-1" and "CS-2," or collectively, the "CSes"). HUNTER spoke with the CSes about serving as the head of security for the CSes' purported Colombian drug trafficking organization, and HUNTER provided the CSes with resumes for the individuals he had selected as prospective members of the security team.

Asia: March 2013

HUNTER and His Team Discuss "Assassinations" and Conduct Surveillance for a Narcotics Trafficking Organization

b. During 2013, HUNTER, GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI traveled to a country in Asia ("Asian Country-1").

c. On or about March 8, 2013, HUNTER and the CSes met in Asian Country-1; the meeting was audio- and video-recorded, and during the meeting:

i. The CSes told HUNTER, in substance and in part, that the team HUNTER had assembled to perform security work for the CSes' narcotics trafficking organization could expect to see "a lot of dope going back and forth, thousands of kilos."

ii. HUNTER and the CSes discussed "bonus jobs" (contract killings), and HUNTER confirmed for the CSes, in substance and in part, that he (HUNTER) had already discussed "bonus jobs" with part of his team - and that those team members

had indicated they wanted to do as much "bonus job" work as possible.

iii. HUNTER told the CSes, in substance and in part, that he himself had previously done "bonus work."

d. Later in the day, on or about March 8, 2013, HUNTER, GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI met; the meeting was audio- and video-recorded, and during the meeting:

i. HUNTER told GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI that they would be working for a Colombian cartel and that the men could expect to "see tons of cocaine and millions of dollars."

ii. HUNTER told GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI that, if they wished, they would have the opportunity to participate in "bonus work," which HUNTER explained meant "assassinations." HUNTER told GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI that "most of the bonus work is up close . . . because in the cities . . . you don't get long-range shots."

iii. HUNTER explained that he (HUNTER) had in fact previously committed acts of violence for pay - including, among other things, arranging for the murders of two female real estate agents. With respect to the murders of the real estate agents, HUNTER said: "They went back to the house, they shot her, they didn't even go in - they shot her at the

door and left her there. But it was raining that day, so there was no people around, and they did it perfect, no problems. Now . . . I had two guys, two other guys that wanted bonus work. They did the job, but they did it sloppy, and I fired them. Sent them back home. These guys, the same thing - another real estate agent."

e. On or about March 10, 2013, HUNTER, GOGEL, FILTER, SOBORSKI, and the CSes met; the meeting was audio- and video-recorded, and during the meeting, the men discussed, among other things, GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI performing surveillance of a boat on behalf of the CSes' narcotics trafficking organization.

f. Later in the day, on or about March 10, 2013, HUNTER, GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI met; the meeting was audio- and video-recorded, and during the meeting:

i. HUNTER explained, in substance and in part, that he (HUNTER) believed the boat would contain illegal items and that the job would entail "counter-surveillance" - determining, among other things, whether "the police know about the boat."

ii. HUNTER described methods of performing surveillance of the boat.

g. On or about March 21, 2013, through on or about March 26, 2013, GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI conducted surveillance of the boat.

h. On or about March 24, 2013, HUNTER sent a report of GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI's activities to an e-mail account ("E-mail Account-1") that was said by the CSes to be an e-mail account of a person whom the CSes described as their narcotics trafficking partner. HUNTER reported in his e-mail: "[t]he guys are continuing to watch the boat" and there had been "[n]o detection of any surveil[l]ance as of yet."

i. On or about March 28, 2013, HUNTER sent an e-mail to E-mail Account-1, providing photographs of the boat on which GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI had performed surveillance.

Africa: April 2013

HUNTER's Team Conducts Further Surveillance for the Narcotics Trafficking Organization

j. From on or about March 19, 2013, through on or about April 5, 2013, HUNTER sent numerous e-mails to E-mail Account-1 regarding GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI's travel to a country in Africa ("African Country-1").

k. In or about April 2013, GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI traveled to African Country-1.

l. On or about April 10, 2013, GOGEL, FILTER, SOBORSKI, and the CSes met in African Country-1; during the

meeting, the CSes asked GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI to provide security for meetings focused on a narcotics deal, and to conduct counter-surveillance related to a weapons deal.

m. On or about April 11, 2013, and again on or about April 12, 2013, GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI provided security for a meeting during which the participants discussed, among other things, the distribution of illegal narcotics to the United States; certain participants in the meeting were representatives of a bona fide Eastern European drug-trafficking organization, which had shipped over 200 kilograms of cocaine during 2012.

n. On or about April 13, 2013, GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI took photographs and conducted counter-surveillance of individuals whom, the CSes said, were conducting weapons negotiations with the CSes' drug trafficking organization.

o. Later that day, on or about April 13, 2013, GOGEL, FILTER, SOBORSKI, and the CSes met; GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI reported on observations they had made while conducting counter-surveillance.

p. On or about April 16, 2013, HUNTER sent an e-mail to E-mail Account-1; the e-mail stated that GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI "held [a] debriefing and pointed out some

minor mistakes." In the e-mail, HUNTER further stated that he would send "a slide show of some surveillance they did."

q. On or about April 18, 2013, HUNTER forwarded to E-mail Account-1 surveillance reports and photographs of the meetings in African Country-1 as to which GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI had conducted surveillance.

Asia: May and June 2013

HUNTER Adds VAMVAKIAS to the Team and Agrees That the Team Will Commit Multiple Murders for Hire

r. On or about May 6, 2013, HUNTER sent an e-mail to E-mail Account-1. HUNTER wrote: "Everyone is ready to go, just waiting further instructions. They also, really want a bonus job after this next mission, if available."

s. On or about May 18, 2013, HUNTER, VAMVAKIAS, and the CSes met in Asian Country-1; the meeting was audio and video-recorded, and during the meeting:

i. CS-1 and CS-2 introduced to HUNTER and VAMVAKIAS an additional purported member of the Colombian narcotics trafficking organization, who was in fact a confidential source for the DEA ("CS-3").

ii. HUNTER explained that he (HUNTER) had served in the military with VAMVAKIAS and had told VAMVAKIAS "[a]bout bonus work." HUNTER stated that VAMVAKIAS "knows the game."

iii. With respect to "bonus work," VAMVAKIAS stated: "I can handle it."

iv. GOGEL and SOBORSKI joined the meeting; one of the CSes stated that assistance would soon be needed in a Caribbean country ("Caribbean Country-1") because of a "big load" being transported through Caribbean Country-1. CS-1 also stated, in substance, that there was a "bonus job" in the offing, because there was a "leak" within the CSes' narcotics trafficking organization.

t. On or about May 30, 2013, in response to an e-mail asking whether HUNTER's team would be willing to murder a United States law enforcement agent and a boat captain providing information to United States law enforcement authorities, HUNTER wrote an e-mail that read, in part: "My guys will handle it. . . . Are you talking about both the Captain and agent or just the Captain?"

u. On or about May 30, 2013, in response to an e-mail stating that HUNTER's team had the option of either (1) killing the United States law enforcement agent and also the person providing information to law enforcement, or (2) killing just the informant, HUNTER wrote an e-mail that read, in part: "They will handle both jobs. They just need good tools."

The Caribbean: June 2013

VAMVAKIAS Leads the Surveillance of a Cocaine-Laden Airplane and Discusses Details of the Agreed-Upon Contract Killings

v. On or about June 24, 2013, HUNTER sent an e-mail to CS-3 that read, in part: "Talk to Tay [VAMVAKIAS], he is mission leader for this one."

w. On or about June 25, 2013, HUNTER sent a text message to VAMVAKIAS, asking, "Hey, how are things going? You guys on the job yet?" and inquiring, in substance and in part, whether one of the CSEs had arrived in Caribbean Country-1.

x. Later in the day, on or about June 25, 2013, VAMVAKIAS, GOGEL, FILTER, SOBORSKI, and CS-3 met at a hotel in Caribbean Country-1; the meeting was audio- and video-recorded, and during the meeting CS-3 asked VAMVAKIAS, GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI to conduct surveillance on a United States-registered airplane that, according to CS-3, would be loaded with 300 kilograms of cocaine being shipped to New York. CS-3 provided the airplane's registration or "tail" number, and explained "you have to know it's an American aircraft - it's a U.S. registration."

y. The next day, on or about June 26, 2013, VAMVAKIAS, GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI performed surveillance and took photographs of the loading of the airplane.

z. On or about June 26, 2013, approximately one hour after the airplane took off, HUNTER sent an e-mail to E-mail Account-1: "Mission Complete."

aa. On the same day, on or about June 26, 2013, HUNTER sent an e-mail to VAMVAKIAS. It said, in part: "find out about next team mission and have Niko [GOGEL] get briefing on bonus [work]."

bb. Later on the same day, on or about June 26, 2013, VAMVAKIAS, GOGEL, and CS-3 met; the meeting was audio- and video-recorded, and during the meeting:

i. VAMVAKIAS and GOGEL reported on the airplane surveillance performed by VAMVAKIAS, GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI, stating, among other things, that they had seen the loading of the "product" onto the airplane.

ii. VAMVAKIAS and GOGEL provided CS-3 with a thumb drive containing photographs taken during surveillance of the loading of the airplane.

iii. CS-3 explained that "the job is to kill a U.S. DEA agent and a source with the DEA," and told VAMVAKIAS and GOGEL that the DEA agent and DEA informant would be located in a certain country in Africa ("African Country-2") in the near future. In response, VAMVAKIAS and GOGEL offered their ideas and plans for how to commit the murders, including using machine

guns, cyanide, or a grenade, and the need for masks and appropriate weapons. VAMVAKIAS advised that they had "two masks" that they would use for the killings. GOGEL said that they would figure out their "cover." GOGEL asked: "Could we set him up, maybe you tell him to go there [African Country-2] and we just clip him there?" VAMVAKIAS also said: "I was thinking if we hit the agent first, it would probably be better than hitting the snitch first."

iv. FILTER and SOBORSKI joined the meeting. VAMVAKIAS asked CS-3 whether they had "silencers for rifles," and said "my only problem with the 5.56 [a kind of rifle] . . . was the noise."

cc. Later on the same day, on or about June 26, 2013, VAMVAKIAS sent a message to HUNTER advising HUNTER that he had "got debriefed" about the murders requested on behalf of the drug trafficking organization. VAMVAKIAS indicated that while CS-3 had suggested that each of VAMVAKIAS, GOGEL, FILTER, and SOBORSKI would participate in the murders ("all 4 of us are to be on this bonus"), not all of the men were up to the task ("our other two will not be able to handle this bonus bro"). In addition, VAMVAKIAS wrote that he would "debrief [HUNTER] about everything when we return."

Asia: July and August 2013

HUNTER, VAMVAKIAS, and GOGEL Make Final Arrangements to Commit the Murders-for-Hire in African Country-2

dd. On or about July 6, 2013, HUNTER sent a message to an e-mail address associated with CS-3 and to E-mail Account-1, providing a "list of items needed for the job." The list included: "Two Submachine Guns with silencers (Mac 10, MP5, P90, MP7,,,something small)," "Two .22 pistols with Silencers (these are a must)," "One 308 Rifle with Scope and Case for it," "Two Level 3A Concealment Vests."

ee. On or about August 15, 2013, HUNTER, GOGEL, and VAMVAKIAS traveled to a hotel in Asian Country-1 to meet with CS-3.

ff. On or about August 15, 2013, HUNTER, GOGEL, VAMVAKIAS, and CS-3 met; the meeting was audio-recorded, and during the meeting:

i. At the direction of HUNTER, GOGEL searched CS-3 for recording devices.

ii. GOGEL agreed to meet with CS-3 the following day to provide masks that would be worn during the killings, and could be smuggled into African Country-2 in advance of the murders.

iii. HUNTER, VAMVAKIAS, and GOGEL reviewed purported surveillance photographs, said to have been taken in

African Country-2, of the two targets of the murder-for-hire: the DEA agent and a person supplying information to the DEA.

iv. After being told that a car was associated with the targets of the murder-for-hire, HUNTER stated: "We will need the license number and the car."

v. HUNTER, VAMVAKIAS, and GOGEL discussed the weapons that would be provided to VAMVAKIAS and GOGEL in African Country-2 for use in committing the murders. VAMVAKIAS stated: "I think the two biggest weapons we need, two a piece, would be the MP7 with suppression and two twenty-two's with suppression," referring, respectively, to a sub-machine gun and two .22 caliber pistols. VAMVAKIAS also stated that VAMVAKIAS and GOGEL were "probably gonna have to get up close to them. You know what I mean, to make sure it gets done." GOGEL added, with respect to a different weapon, a ".308": "The thing with the .308 is it's fucking loud." VAMVAKIAS also said: "you can't suppress a .308, you know if we used the weapons with a suppression system it's going to be easier for us to get in, eliminate the target and get out without being heard."

vi. VAMVAKIAS described the value of having a smaller weapon in addition to an MP-7 sub-machine gun: "the whole point in having the twenty-two is to finish the job or if I have a weapons malfunction with my primary that's my

secondary. You know, we gotta do this, hit it hard, hit it fast, make sure it's done and get the fuck out of there. That's all that's to it. If we got the right equipment, we're good to go."

vii. After CS-3 advised HUNTER, GOGEL, and VAMVAKIAS that CS-3 had good contacts for obtaining the weapons needed, VAMVAKIAS stated: "if we can get the MP7s that would be awesome. That will guarantee that whatever gets in that kill zone is going down."

viii. GOGEL asked CS-3, "How we get the equipment [weapons] there? Do we meet with somebody there, or somebody comes to the hotel?"; in response, CS-3 advised that he (CS-3) would deliver "the bags."

ix. HUNTER told CS-3 that only a two-person team would be used to commit the killings, referencing GOGEL and VAMVAKIAS.

x. HUNTER asked CS-3 if "cars and motor bikes" would be provided for the hit team; after CS-3 advised that they would be provided, HUNTER further stated: "So you're gonna have the vehicles, you're gonna have the tools [weapons], and you're gonna take care of the masks for us."

xi. HUNTER, GOGEL, and VAMVAKIAS discussed whether they could enter African Country-2 without the need to have their passports stamped.

xii. HUNTER and VAMVAKIAS discussed methods of escape from African Country-2 after GOGEL and VAMVAKIAS committed the murders. Among other things, VAMVAKIAS suggested that the best method of escape would be for CS-3 to fly them out of African Country-2 on a small, private plane.

xiii. HUNTER said that the team "budgeted two weeks for it . . . Two weeks once they're there;" VAMVAKIAS added: "Two weeks total. We would have a week for surveillance and a week to make it happen."

xiv. HUNTER asked CS-3 about the return or disposal of the weapons that GOGEL and VAMVAKIAS would use in the killings: "For equipment recovery, do you want the stuff back or is it disposable? . . . What I think probably will happen is, though, they will put it in a pre-determined place and it will be there and you can have somebody pick it up . . . You see, going from the kill zone to wherever, of course they got to get rid of whatever it is."

xv. With respect to the killers' escape from African Country-2 after the murders, VAMVAKIAS stated: "It makes me happy, I'm glad you're [CS-3] going to be part of the

extraction stuff . . . That's the biggest headache. The job's not the headache, it's getting in and out."

gg. The next day, on or about August 16, 2013, GOGEL met with CS-3 at a hotel in Asian Country-1; the meeting was audio- and video-recorded, and during the meeting, CS-3 told GOGEL that an order had been placed for the weapons that GOGEL, VAMVAKIAS, and HUNTER had requested. GOGEL stated: "That's perfect because even if they wear a Second Chance vest, the MP7 the projectile is so --" after which CS-3 interjected, "Yeah, go right through." GOGEL also noted that the murders could be made to look like an ordinary street crime, stating, "[i]t could even look like a bad robbery or anything, you know."

hh. Later in the same day, on or about August 16, 2013, in a hotel room in Asian Country-1, at a meeting that was audio- and video-recorded:

i. GOGEL provided CS-3 with two highly sophisticated latex facemasks to be transported to African Country-2; the masks can make the wearer appear to be of another race.

ii. GOGEL noted that he was available for further criminal activity. "Normally I was hired to do just these jobs, you know, just to do this bonus stuff. But, seriously, anything coming up like that so just let me know I

will take care of them." GOGEL added: "That's fun, actually for me that's fun, I love this work."

Africa: September 2013

GOGEL and VAMVAKIAS Travel to African Country-2 To Murder the
DEA Agent and Informant

ii. On or about August 29, 2013, GOGEL sent a message to an e-mail account associated with CS-3 attaching a scan of GOGEL's passport and of VAMVAKIAS's passport, so that CS-3 could arrange for GOGEL and VAMVAKIAS's travel to African Country-2 to commit the murders.

jj. On or about September 4, 2013, HUNTER sent an e-mail message asking if GOGEL and VAMVAKIAS ("the guys going on bonus job") could purchase airplane tickets to African Country-2.

kk. On or about September 7, 2013, HUNTER sent an e-mail message requesting that visas for GOGEL's and VAMVAKIAS's entry into African Country-2 be e-mailed to him (HUNTER), so that he (HUNTER) could print the visas.

ll. On or about September 9, 2013, HUNTER sent an e-mail message containing the flight number and arrival time of GOGEL's and VAMVAKIAS's September 25, 2013, flight to African Country-2.

mm. On or about September 25, 2013, GOGEL and VAMVAKIAS arrived in African Country-2 to commit the planned murders for hire.

(Title 21, United States Code, Sections 963 and 959(c).)

COUNT TWO

CONSPIRACY TO MURDER A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENT AND A PERSON ASSISTING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENT

The Grand Jury further charges:

13. The allegations set forth in Paragraphs One through Nine and Twelve above are incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein.

14. During at least 2013, up to and including the date of the filing of this Indictment, JOSEPH MANUEL HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," and DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," the defendants, who will be arrested and first brought to the Southern District of New York, and others known and unknown, knowingly and intentionally combined, conspired, confederated and agreed together and with each other to violate Section 1114 of Title 18, United States Code.

15. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that JOSEPH MANUEL HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," and DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," the

defendants, and others known and unknown, would kill and attempt to kill an officer and employee of the United States and of any agency in any branch of the United States Government while such officer and employee was engaged in and on account of the performance of official duties, and any person assisting such an officer and employee in the performance of such duties and on account of that assistance, to wit, HUNTER, VAMVAKIAS, and GOGEL agreed to kill an agent of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration while engaged in and on account of his official duties, and to kill a confidential source assisting the agent with his official duties.

16. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the illegal object thereof, HUNTER, VAMVAKIAS, and GOGEL, the defendants, and others known and unknown, committed the overt acts set forth in Paragraph Twelve of this Indictment, which are fully incorporated by reference herein.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1117 and 1114 and 3238.)

COUNT THREE

CONSPIRACY TO KILL A PERSON TO PREVENT COMMUNICATIONS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS

The Grand Jury further charges:

17. The allegations set forth in Paragraphs One through Nine and Twelve above are incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein.

18. During at least 2013, up to and including the date of the filing of this Indictment, JOSEPH MANUEL HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," and DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," the defendants, who will be arrested and first brought to the Southern District of New York, and others known and unknown, knowingly and intentionally combined, conspired, confederated and agreed together and with each other to violate Section 1512(a)(1)(C) of Title 18, United States Code.

19. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that JOSEPH MANUEL HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," and DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," the defendants, and others known and unknown, would kill and attempt to kill another person, with the intent to prevent the communication by any person to a law enforcement officer and judge of the United States of information relating to the commission and possible commission of a Federal offense, to wit, HUNTER, VAMVAKIAS, and GOGEL agreed to kill a confidential source to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration with the intent to prevent communications by that confidential source to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

20. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the illegal object thereof, HUNTER, VAMVAKIAS, and GOGEL, the defendants, and others known and unknown, committed the overt acts set forth in Paragraph Twelve of this Indictment, which are fully incorporated by reference herein.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1512(k), (h), and (a)(1)(C) and 3238.)

COUNT FOUR

CONSPIRACY TO POSSESS A FIREARM IN FURTHERANCE OF A CRIME OF VIOLENCE

The Grand Jury further charges:

21. The allegations set forth in Paragraphs One through Nine and Twelve above are incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein.

22. During at least 2013, up to and including the date of the filing of this Indictment, JOSEPH MANUEL HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," and DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," the defendants, who will be arrested and first brought to the Southern District of New York, and others known and unknown, knowingly and intentionally combined, conspired, confederated and agreed together and with each other to possess, brandish, and discharge firearms, to wit, machine guns with silencers, during and in relation to, and in

furtherance of a crime of violence, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 924(c)(1)(A)(iii) and (c)(1)(B)(ii).

23. It was a part and object of the conspiracy that JOSEPH MANUEL HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," and DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," the defendants, during and in relation to a crime of violence for which a person may be prosecuted in the United States, would use, carry, possess, brandish, and discharge an MP-7 machine gun and other assault weapons with silencers in furtherance of a crime of violence, to wit, the murder conspiracies alleged in Counts Two and Three of this Indictment.

24. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the illegal object thereof, JOSEPH MANUEL HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," and DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," the defendants, committed the overt acts set forth in Paragraph Twelve of this Indictment, which are fully incorporated by reference herein.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 924(o) and 3238.)

COUNT FIVE

CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE COCAINE ON BOARD AN AIRPLANE

The Grand Jury further charges:

25. The allegations set forth in Paragraphs One through Nine and Twelve above are incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein.

26. During at least 2013, up to and including the date of the filing of this Indictment, TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," MICHAEL FILTER, a/k/a "Paul," and SLAWOMIR SOBORSKI, a/k/a "Gerald," the defendants, at least one of whom will first enter the United States in the Southern District of New York, and others known and unknown, knowingly and intentionally combined, conspired, confederated and agreed together and with each other to violate the narcotics laws of the United States.

27. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," MICHAEL FILTER, a/k/a "Paul," and SLAWOMIR SOBORSKI, a/k/a "Gerald," the defendants, and others known and unknown, would and did distribute and possess with the intent to distribute a controlled substance, to wit, five kilograms and more of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine, on board an aircraft owned by a

United States citizen and registered in the United States, in violation of Sections 812, 959(b), and 960(b)(1)(B) of Title 21, United States Code.

28. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the illegal object thereof, TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," MICHAEL FILTER, a/k/a "Paul," and SLAWOMIR SOBORSKI, a/k/a "Gerald," the defendants, committed the overt acts set forth in Paragraph Twelve of this Indictment, which are fully incorporated by reference herein.

(Title 21, United States Code, Sections 963 and 959(c).)

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION AS TO COUNT ONE

29. As a result of committing the controlled substance offense alleged in Count One of this Indictment, JOSEPH MANUEL HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," MICHAEL FILTER, a/k/a "Paul," and SLAWOMIR SOBORSKI, a/k/a "Gerald," the defendants, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853, any and all property constituting and derived from any proceeds that the said defendants obtained directly or indirectly as a result of the said violation and any and all property used or intended to be used in any manner or

part to commit or to facilitate the commission of the violation alleged in Count One of this Indictment.

Substitute Assets Provision

30. 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), to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendants up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

(Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 853.)

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION AS TO COUNT TWO

31. As a result of committing the offense of conspiracy to murder a law enforcement agent and a person assisting a law enforcement agent in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1117, 1114, and 3238, alleged in Count Two of this Indictment, JOSEPH MANUEL HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," and DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," 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, all property, real and personal, that constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the commission of the offense.

Substitute Assets Provision

32. 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) . to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendants up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

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

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION AS TO COUNT THREE

33. As a result of committing the offense of conspiracy to kill a person to prevent communications to law enforcement agents in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1512(k), (h), and (a)(1)(C) and 3238, alleged in Count Three of this Indictment, JOSEPH MANUEL HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," and DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," 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, all property, real and personal, that constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the commission of the offense.

Substitute Assets Provision

34. 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), to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendants up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

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

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION AS TO COUNT FOUR

35. As a result of committing the offense of conspiracy to possess a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections

924(o) and 3238, alleged in Count Four of this Indictment, JOSEPH MANUEL HUNTER, a/k/a "Frank Robinson," a/k/a "Jim Riker," a/k/a "Rambo," TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," and DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," the defendants, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(d) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), all firearms and ammunition involved and used in the commission of the said offense, including but not limited to the following:

- a. firearms, including machine and sub-machine guns;
- b. silencers and suppressors;
- c. ammunition and grenades;
- d. masks;
- e. knives or other weapons; and
- f. computers, cell phones, and smart phones.

Substitute Assets Provision

36. 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), to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendants up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

(Title 21, United States Code, Sections 924(d) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).)

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION AS TO COUNT FIVE

37. As a result of committing the controlled substance offense alleged in Count Five of this Indictment, TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS, a/k/a "Tay," DENNIS GOGEL, a/k/a "Dennis Goegel," a/k/a "Nico," MICHAEL FILTER, a/k/a "Paul," and SLAWOMIR SOBORSKI, a/k/a "Gerald," the defendants, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853, any and all property constituting and derived from any proceeds that the said defendants obtained directly or indirectly as a result of the said violation and any and all property used or intended to be used in any manner or part to

commit or to facilitate the commission of the violation alleged in Count Five of this Indictment.

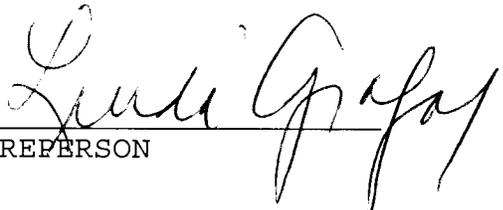
Substitute Assets Provision

38. 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), to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendants up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

(Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 853.)


FOREPERSON


PREET BHARARA
United States Attorney

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- v. -

JOSEPH HUNTER,
a/k/a "Frank Robinson,"
a/k/a "Jim Riker,"
a/k/a "Rambo,"
TIMOTHY VAMVAKIAS,
a/k/a "Tay,"
DENNIS GOGEL,
a/k/a "Dennis Goegel,"
a/k/a "Nico,"
MICHAEL FILTER,
a/k/a "Paul," and
SLAWOMIR SOBORSKI,
a/k/a "Gerald,"

Defendants.

SEALED INDICTMENT

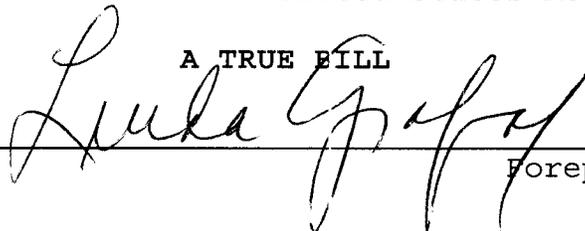
S7 13 Cr. 521

(21 U.S.C. §§ 959, 960(a)(3), 960(b)(1)(B),
and 963; 18 U.S.C. §§ 924(o), 1117, 1114,
1512(k), (h), and (a)(1)(C).)

PREET BHARARA

United States Attorney.

A TRUE BILL



Foreperson.

9/25/2013

Filed Sealed Seventh Superseding indictment
vs. M.J. Debra Freeman