



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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15 MEMBERS OF CRIMINAL RING
CHARGED WITH PRODUCING FAKE IDENTIFICATION
DOCUMENTS, MORTGAGE FRAUD, AND OTHER CRIMES

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and ANDREW CUOMO, the Attorney General of the State of New York, announced today the unsealing of an Indictment charging 15 individuals with crimes including producing fake identification documents, using those documents to commit various fraud crimes, and selling and transporting stolen vehicles. As alleged in the sixteen-count Indictment returned by the grand jury in Manhattan federal court:

The defendants and their co-conspirators produced false identification documents purporting to have been issued by state and federal government authorities, including driver's licenses, resident alien cards, social security cards, and tax identification documents. The false identification documents were produced in the names of fraudulent identities, to which the defendants referred as "chickens." In order to build financial credit for these fake identities, the defendants, among other things, fraudulently established bank accounts, credit card accounts, apartment leases, and telephone and utility accounts in the names of the "chickens." The defendants also applied for and obtained lucrative bank loans, home mortgage loans, increased credit card limits, and other financial benefits in the names of the "chicken" identities or in the names of sham businesses supposedly operated by those fraudulent identities. The defendants and their co-conspirators then defaulted on the loans

and credit card debt, causing at least \$10 million in losses to numerous financial institutions.

In the course of the scheme, the defendants and their co-conspirators designated certain physical addresses as the mailing addresses for the "chicken" credit card accounts, and regularly monitored the mail at those addresses for incoming credit cards and account statements in the false names. They then used these cards to pay bills, make purchases, and obtain cash advances, often charging the maximum (or above the maximum) amount allowed on the cards and then defaulting on the bill.

Additionally, four of the defendants -- TAHIR ALI KHAN, SYED HASSAN, FRANKLIN RODRIGUEZ, AND BASHARAL JARRAL -- are charged with stolen vehicle offenses involving luxury cars such as Hummers and a Porsche Cayenne.

Breakdown of Defendants and Penalties by Charge

Charge	Named Defendants	Maximum Penalty
Count One: Conspiracy to Commit Identification Document Fraud	TAHIR ALI KHAN FAYYAZ AHMED ARIE BENSIMON MUHAMMAD ISHAQ NADEEM KHAN GHULAM MEHMOOD SHAHEEN MUKHTAR QAISER QURESHI SYED SHAH OSCAR SANCHEZ PRADIPT SHARMA	15 years' imp.; 3 years' S.R.; fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain/loss; \$100 S.A.; restitution.
Count Two: Production of False ID Documents	TAHIR ALI KHAN ARIE BENSIMON MUHAMMAD ISHAQ NADEEM KHAN GHULAM MEHMOOD SHAHEEN MUKHTAR QAISER QURESHI OSCAR SANCHEZ SYED SHAH PRADIPT SHARMA	15 years' imp.; 3 years' S.R.; fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain/loss; \$100 S.A.; restitution.

Count Three: Use of False ID Documents to Commit Other Crimes	TAHIR ALI KHAN ARIE BENSHIMON MUHAMMAD ISHAQ NADEEM KHAN GHULAM MEHMOOD SHAHEEN MUKHTAR QAISER QURESHI OSCAR SANCHEZ SYED SHAH PRADIPT SHARMA	15 years' imp.; 3 years' S.R.; fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain/loss; \$100 S.A.; restitution.
Count Four: Aggravated ID Theft	TAHIR ALI KHAN ARIE BENSHIMON MUHAMMAD ISHAQ NADEEM KHAN GHULAM MEHMOOD SHAHEEN MUKHTAR QAISER QURESHI OSCAR SANCHEZ SYED SHAH PRADIPT SHARMA	2 years' imp., mandatory minimum consecutive
Count Five: Conspiracy to Commit Access Device Fraud	TAHIR ALI KHAN FAYYAZ AHMED NAVEED ALI BHINDAR MUHAMMAD ISHAQ GHULAM MEHMOOD QAISER QURESHI OSCAR SANCHEZ SYED SHAH	10 years' imp.; 3 years' S.R.; fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain/loss; \$100 S.A.; restitution
Count Six: Access Device Fraud	TAHIR ALI KHAN FAYYAZ AHMED NAVEED ALI BHINDAR MUHAMMAD ISHAQ GHULAM MEHMOOD QAISER QURESHI OSCAR SANCHEZ SYED SHAH	10 years' imp.; 3 years' S.R.; fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain/loss; \$100 S.A.; restitution.
Count Seven: Conspiracy to commit bank fraud	TAHIR ALI KHAN FAYYAZ AHMED MUHAMMAD ISHAQ GHULAM MEHMOOD OSCAR SANCHEZ SYED SHAH PRADIPT SHARMA	30 years' imp.; 3 years' S.R.; fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain/loss; \$100 S.A.; restitution.
Count Eight: Bank fraud	TAHIR ALI KHAN MUHAMMAD ISHAQ GHULAM MEHMOOD OSCAR SANCHEZ SYED SHAH PRADIPT SHARMA	30 years' imp.; 3 years' S.R.; fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain/loss; \$100 S.A.; restitution.

Count Nine: Conspiracy to commit wire fraud	TAHIR ALI KHAN ARIE BENSHIMON GHULAM MEHMOOD SHAHEEN MUKHTAR	30 years' imp.; 3 years' S.R.; fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain/loss; \$100 S.A.; restitution.
Count Ten: Wire fraud	TAHIR ALI KHAN ARIE BENSHIMON GHULAM MEHMOOD SHAHEEN MUKHTAR	30 years' imp.; 3 years' S.R.; fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain/loss; \$100 S.A.; restitution.
Count Eleven: Conspiracy to commit money laundering	NAVEED ALI BHINDAR GHULAM MEHMOOD SYED SHAH	20 years' imp.; 3 years' S.R.; fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain/loss; \$100 S.A.; restitution.
Count Twelve: Money laundering	TAHIR ALI KHAN SYED HASSAN FRANKLIN RODRIGUEZ BASHARAT JARRAL	20 years' imp.; 3 years' S.R.; fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain/loss; \$100 S.A.; restitution.
Count Thirteen: Conspiracy to sell, transport, and receive stolen vehicles	TAHIR ALI KHAN SYED HASSAN FRANKLIN RODRIGUEZ BASHARAT JARRAL	5 years' imp.; 3 years' S.R.; fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain/loss; \$100 S.A.; restitution
Count Fourteen: Transportation of stolen vehicles	TAHIR ALI KHAN SYED HASSAN FRANKLIN RODRIGUEZ BASHARAT JARRAL	10 years' imp.; 3 years' S.R.; fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain/loss; \$100 S.A.; restitution.
Count Fifteen: Sale and receipt of stolen vehicles	TAHIR ALI KHAN SYED HASSAN FRANKLIN RODRIGUEZ BASHARAT JARRAL	10 years' imp.; 3 years' S.R.; fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain/loss; \$100 S.A.; restitution.
Count Sixteen: Visa fraud	TAHIR ALI KHAN	10 years' imp.; 3 years' S.R.; fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain/loss; \$100 S.A.; restitution.

TAHIR ALI KHAN is 30 years old, and resides in Alabama.

FAYYAZ AHMED is 40 years old, and is currently held at Riker's Island, New York.

ARIE BENSHIMON is 35 years old and resides in Monsey, New York.

NAVEED ALI BHINDAR is 43 years old resides in Valley Stream, New York.

SYED HASSAN is 33 years old and resides in Staten Island, New York.

MUHAMMAD ISHAQ is 34 years old and resides in Brooklyn, New York.

BASHARAT JARRAL is 49 years old and resides in Elmhurst, New York.

NADEEM KHAN is 24 years old and resides in Brooklyn, New York.

GHULAM MEHMOOD is 40 years old and resides in Cartaret, New Jersey.

SHAHEEN MUKHTAR is 53 years old and resides in Voorhees, New Jersey.

QAISER QURESHI is 53 years old and resides in Queens, New York.

FRANKLIN RODRIGUEZ is 21 years old and resides in Brooklyn, New York.

SYED SHAH is 23 years old and resides in Brooklyn, New York.

OSCAR SANCHEZ is 37 years old and resides in Brooklyn, New York.

PRADIPT SHARMA is 31 years old and resides in Brooklyn, New York.

The filing of these charges is the culmination of a 16-month investigation conducted by the New York State Attorney General's Office with the New York City Police Department, New York State Police, the Hoover, Alabama Police Department, and the New York State Banking Department. Valuable assistance was provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, the New York City Department of Probation, the Social Security Administration, and the United States Secret Service.

Mr. GARCIA praised the Attorney General's Office and the federal, state and local law enforcement agencies for their outstanding work in the investigation.

Mr. GARCIA stated: "Through the cooperation of federal and state prosecutors, and the investigative work of federal, state and local agencies, we have dismantled a fraud ring of 15 defendants who used false identities to obtain at least \$10 million through a wide variety of scams."

"These defendants are charged with creating a comprehensive system of fraud for ripping off businesses to satisfy their own greed. One of these individuals is even charged with attempting to purchase \$10,000 worth of Lowe's gift cards using a credit card obtained through a false identity," said Mr. CUOMO. "Our investigators spent over a year monitoring the conspirators and tirelessly compiling evidence to expose these illegal activities. I applaud their hard work, which was a critical part of this investigation and essential in uncovering these crimes."

Assistant United States Attorneys LISA ZORNBERG and ELIE HONIG, and Assistant Attorney General MERYL LUTSKY -- who is designated as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in this case -- are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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