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Approved:

PETER SKINNER
Assistant United States Attorney

Before: THE HONORABLE RONALD L. ELLIS
United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of New York

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

- - - - - X

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- v. -

ALI HAMEDI,
a/k/a "Ali Mohammad Hamed,"

Defendant.

:
:
: SEaled
: COMPLAINT
:
: Violation of 21 U.S.C.
: § 846
:
: COUNTY OF OFFENSE:
: NEW YORK

- - - - - X

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ss.:

SCOTT JOSEPH URBEN, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and charges as follows:

COUNT ONE

1. From at least in or about August 2011, up to and including at least on or about December 7, 2011, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ALI HAMEDI, a/k/a "Ali Mohammad Hamed," the defendant, 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.

2. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that ALI HAMEDI, a/k/a "Ali Mohammad Hamed," the defendant, and others known and unknown, would and did possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1).

3. The controlled substance involved in the offense was mixtures and substances containing a detectable amount of opium, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(C).

Overt Act

4. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the illegal object thereof, the following overt act, among others, was committed in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere:

a. On or about December 6, 2011, ALI HAMEDI, a/k/a "Ali Mohammad Hamedi," the defendant, picked up another co-conspirator not named as a defendant herein in New York, New York, and then traveled to Roslyn, New York, where the other co-conspirator purchased opium.

(Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.)

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

5. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and I have been personally involved in the investigation of this matter. This affidavit is based upon my own observations, my conversations with other law enforcement agents and others, and my examination of reports and records. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause, it does not include all the facts that 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.

6. Based on my conversations with other law enforcement officers, I learned that in or about August 2011, a cooperating witness (the "CW")¹ informed law enforcement agents, in substance and in part, the following:

a. The CW knew individuals born in Iran who resided in New York, California, Turkey, Germany and Iran who were involved in the smuggling of opium into the United States. Those individuals hid opium in Persian rugs that originated in Iran, were transported to Germany, and were then sent from Germany to the United States.

¹ The CW has pleaded guilty to a narcotics offense and is awaiting sentencing in connection with that offense. The CW is cooperating with the Government in the hope of receiving a benefit at sentencing. Information that the CW has provided has proven reliable and has been corroborated by independent law enforcement investigation, including the investigation described below.

b. The CW identified a co-conspirator not named as a defendant herein ("CC-1") as a source of supply for opium and Persian rugs. The CW stated that CC-1 had told the CW that CC-1 obtained opium and Persian rugs from Iran in the following manner:

i. A co-conspirator not named as a defendant herein ("CC-2") was a rug repairer and opium dealer located in Mashad, Iran, who obtained opium from nomads residing in the border region between Iran and Afghanistan.

ii. CC-2 hid opium in Persian rugs and drove the rugs and opium from Iran to Hamburg, Germany, where he/she maintained a residence.

iii. CC-2 sent the opium from Hamburg to CC-1 in New York by shipping Persian rugs to New York and hiding the opium in those rugs.

iv. CC-1 sold opium that he/she received from CC-2 and from others to rug merchants in New York, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and elsewhere.

7. Based on my conversations with other law enforcement officers, I learned that from on or about August 19, 2011 until on or about September 28, 2011, the CW made three purchases of substances that tested positive for opiates from CC-1. CC-1 accepted payment in New York, New York for the substances containing opiates. The total weight of the substances was approximately 235 grams.

8. On or about October 18, 2011, a United States District Judge in the Southern District of New York signed an Order authorizing the interception of wire communications over a telephone ("Cellphone-1") used by CC-1. The following calls were intercepted pursuant to that interception Order²:

² The descriptions of phone calls set forth in this Affidavit are based upon my review of logs and summaries completed by the agents monitoring the intercepted phone calls. To the extent that the descriptions include quotations, those quotations are based on preliminary translations of the conversations, many of which occurred in Farsi or Azari, and are subject to revision upon further review of the conversations. Based on my training, experience and investigation of this case, I have also included interpretations of certain terms and phrases, as well as the content of certain of the calls. These interpretations are preliminary, and are subject to revision upon receipt of the full

a. On or about October 25, 2011, at approximately 4:40 p.m., CC-1 used Cellphone-1 to place a call to another co-conspirator not named as a defendant herein ("CC-3"), who was using a telephone with call number XXX-XXX-7325 ("Cellphone-2"). At the end of the call, CC-1 told CC-3 that "there are a few requests." CC-3 responded, "Hassan has nothing, but there is this guy who is the friend of Ali, and I do not want to discuss any matter with you on the phone." CC-1 and CC-3 then agreed to meet the following day. Based on my experience, training, and investigation of this matter, I believe CC-1 was telling CC-3 that he/she had requests for opium, and CC-3 responded that one of CC-3's sources of supply did not have any opium, but that he/she may be able to get opium from an alternative source of supply.

b. On or about October 27, 2011, at approximately 5:37 p.m., CC-3 used Cellphone-2 to call CC-1, who was using Cellphone-1. CC-3 told CC-1 that "the guy" was "going to be here on Sunday," and that "he says he is not going to sell it for less than \$35 a foot." Based on my experience, training, and investigation of this matter, I believe CC-3 was telling CC-1 in this call that CC-3 had an opium supplier who was willing to sell opium at a rate of \$35,000 per kilogram. In the course of this investigation, I have learned that CC-3 and other co-conspirators are involved in the importation of Persian rugs from Iran, and I believe that CC-3 and the other co-conspirators often use codes, such as "carpet," to refer to opium, and lengths, such as "meters" or "feet," to refer to weights of opium.

9. On or about December 2, 2011, a United States District Judge in the Southern District of New York signed an Order authorizing the interception of wire communications over Cellphone-2. The following calls were intercepted pursuant to that interception Order:

a. On or about December 6, 2011, at approximately 10:14 a.m., CC-3 used Cellphone-2 to call another co-conspirator not named a defendant herein ("CC-4"). CC-3 told CC-4 that "the guys from Washington" were "on their way" and should "arrive at 3:00 or 4:00." CC-3 then asked when would be a "good time to meet." CC-4 replied "5:00 would be a good time." CC-3 said he/she would need "one large" and "twenty" for himself. Based on my experience, training, and investigation of this matter, I believe that CC-3 was coordinating a sale of a large amount of opium from CC-4 to another individual who we

transcripts of the conversations, and as new information is gathered in the course of the investigation.

subsequently identified as ALI HAMEDI, a/k/a "Ali Mohammad Hamedi," the defendant. I further believe that CC-3 had intended to purchase a small amount of opium for him/herself. Lastly, I believe that CC-4 agreed to meet CC-3 at 5:00 that afternoon for purposes of selling opium to CC-3.

b. On or about December 6, 2011, at approximately 10:16 a.m., CC-3 used Cellphone-2 to call HAMEDI, who was using a telephone with call number XXX-XXX-4465 ("Cellphone-3"). Based on information I received from the service provider for Cellphone-3, I learned that Cellphone-3 was subscribed to "Ali Hamedi" at an address in Springfield, Virginia (the "Virginia Address"). CC-3 asked HAMEDI if HAMEDI had left, and HAMEDI responded that he had "just entered Delaware." CC-3 said that if HAMEDI took the New Jersey Turnpike, he should "be there in an hour." CC-3 then said that he/she "did not take [his/her] car," so they would "ride" in HAMEDI's car, because they had to "go to Long Island." CC-3 added that they could "eat at Ravagh and wait there," because "they are close." CC-3 said they were scheduled for 5:00. Based on my experience, training, and investigation of this matter, I believe that HAMEDI, who lived in the Washington, D.C. area, was meeting CC-3 to purchase opium. I believe that in this call, HAMEDI and CC-3 agreed that HAMEDI, who was driving to the New York City area, would pick up CC-3, and that they would then travel together to Long Island to meet CC-3's supplier.

c. On or about December 6, 2011, at approximately 12:10 p.m., CC-3 received a call on Cellphone-2 from HAMEDI, who was using Cellphone-3. HAMEDI told CC-3 that he "had a scare" because CC-3 would not answer CC-3's phone. CC-3 replied that he/she was "on the train going downtown." CC-3 then said that he/she was "at thirty-two," but that he/she could meet HAMEDI at "thirty-four." Based on my experience, training, and investigation of this matter, I believe that CC-3 missed calls from HAMEDI because CC-3 was on the subway in New York, New York, and that CC-3 offered to meet HAMEDI in the vicinity of Thirty-Second Street or Thirty-Fourth Street in New York, New York.³

³ As described in greater detail below, following this phone call, agents conducting surveillance of CC-3 observed CC-3 get into a vehicle operated by HAMEDI in New York, New York, and then followed CC-3 and HAMEDI to Roslyn, New York, where CC-3 engaged in an opium transaction with CC-4.

d. On or about December 6, 2011, at approximately 1:38 p.m., CC-3 used Cellphone-2 to call CC-4. CC-3 left a voicemail for CC-4 in which CC-3 stated that his/her "friends from Washington" had "arrived early." CC-3 added that they were at "Exit 37" on their way to "Ravagh." CC-3 then asked CC-4 to call CC-3 so that they could meet. Based on my experience, training, and investigation of this matter, I believe that CC-3 was calling CC-4 in an effort to move the opium sale from 5:00 to an earlier time. Based on my conversations with agents who were conducting surveillance of CC-3 at the time of this call, I learned that they observed CC-3 in Roslyn, New York, just off exit 37 of the Long Island Expressway. The agents later observed CC-3 enter a restaurant in Roslyn called "Ravagh."

e. On or about December 6, 2011, at approximately 1:50 p.m., CC-4 called CC-3 on Cellphone-2. CC-4 told CC-3 that he/she would "get there at ten to four." CC-3 said that was "no problem" and that he/she would meet CC-4 at 4:00. Based on my experience, training, and investigation of this matter, I believe that CC-4 agreed to meet CC-3 in Roslyn, New York at 4:00 p.m. to sell opium to CC-3.

f. On or about December 6, 2011, at approximately 4:05 p.m., CC-4 called CC-3 on Cellphone-2. CC-4 told CC-3 that he/she was "at the shopping center by CVS" and that he/she was "parked at the handicapped spot" in a "white car." CC-4 told CC-3 that they could "sit in [CC-4's] car." CC-3 answered that he/she was "right behind" CC-4. Based on my experience, training, and investigation of this matter, I believe that CC-4 gave instructions to CC-3 on where to meet him/her in a parking lot in Roslyn, New York. I believe the purpose of this meeting was for CC-4 to sell opium to CC-3, and that CC-3 would in turn deliver the opium to HAMEDI in exchange for a commission. As described below, following this phone call, other agents observed CC-3 get into a white Audi parked in a handicapped spot in the parking lot of a strip mall that contained a CVS.

g. On or about December 7, 2011, at approximately 3:25 p.m., HAMEDI used Cellphone-3 to call CC-3 on Cellphone-2. HAMEDI told CC-3 that "it is garbage" and "not even Mexican quality." CC-3 responded that he/she had also "bought from [CC-4]" and that "the quality was good." After some additional discussion about the "quality," HAMEDI said it was a "waste of money" for people who "constantly use and know the difference." CC-3 said that CC-4's was the "best quality." HAMEDI offered to "travel back" to "return it" and to give a "sample" to CC-3 so he could "see the difference." Later in the call, CC-3 said that he/she "did not mean to do marketing," and

that he "did it" because HAMEDI was CC-3's "friend." HAMEDI said that his "customers" were "returning it" and that they "want their money back." After some further discussion about the quality, HAMEDI said that if "that guy has a different one," HAMEDI would "take it," because he had "bought a lot." CC-3 answered that what CC-3 "got" was "very good quality," and that CC-3 did "not know" what HAMEDI got, because HAMEDI saw that CC-3 "got one hundred." Based on my experience, training, and investigation of this matter, I believe that HAMEDI called CC-3 to complain about the quality of the opium that CC-3 had bought from CC-4 on or about December 6, 2011. I believe that CC-3 purchased 100 grams for him/herself, and that he/she got a larger amount in separate packaging for HAMEDI. I believe that CC-3 was surprised to hear HAMEDI's complaints, because CC-3's one hundred grams were the "best quality." I further believe that HAMEDI was complaining that his customers were returning what he had sold them and were demanding refunds. Lastly, I believe that HAMEDI asked CC-3 for help in getting a higher quality replacement for the opium he had received on or about December 6, 2011.

10. Based on my conversations with other agents, I learned, in substance and in part, the following:

a. As a result of calls intercepted over Cellphone-2, agents were able to identify CC-3. On or about December 6, 2011, certain of those agents were conducting surveillance of CC-3.

b. They observed CC-3 getting into a maroon Dodge Caravan at approximately 1:05 p.m. in the vicinity of East 36th Street and Park Avenue, New York, New York. The Caravan was registered to ALI HAMEDI, a/k/a "Ali Mohammad Hamed," the defendant, at the Virginia Address. The agents who observed the driver of the Caravan have reviewed pictures of HAMEDI obtained from a database maintained by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, and they believe HAMEDI was driving the Caravan.

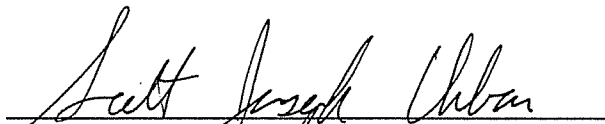
c. The agents followed the Caravan to Roslyn, New York, to the parking lot of a restaurant called Ravagh. They observed CC-3 and HAMEDI exit the Caravan and enter the restaurant. CC-3 and HAMEDI remained in the area of the restaurant for roughly two hours.

d. At approximately 3:45 p.m., CC-3 and HAMEDI re-entered the Caravan and drove to a strip mall parking lot in Roslyn, New York. There was a CVS drugstore in the strip mall. Shortly thereafter, the call described above in paragraph 9.f. was intercepted, and the agents then observed CC-3 exit the Caravan and enter the rear seat of a white Audi parked in the

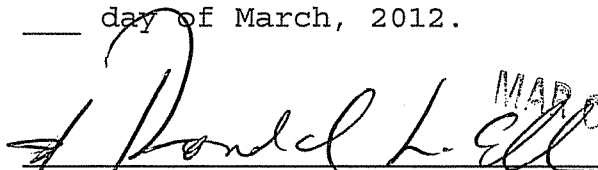
parking lot. When he/she entered the Audi, CC-3 was not carrying anything. When he/she exited the Audi, the agents observed CC-3 carrying a blue plastic shopping bag. CC-3 then reentered the Caravan, which returned to the parking lot of the Ravagh restaurant.

11. Based on my experience, training and investigation of this matter, including the intercepted calls and surveillance described above, I believe CC-3 met CC-4 in the white Audi and that CC-3 purchased opium from CC-4. I further believe CC-3 gave some of the opium that he/she had purchased to ALI HAMEDI, a/k/a "Ali Mohammad Hamed," the defendant, who later distributed some of that opium to others.

WHEREFORE, the deponent prays that a warrant be issued for the arrest of ALI HAMEDI, a/k/a "Ali Mohammad Hamed," the defendant, and that he be imprisoned, or bailed, as the case may be.


SCOTT JOSEPH URBEN
SPECIAL AGENT
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

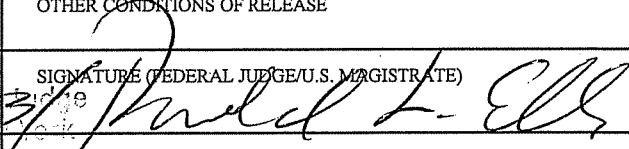
Sworn to before me this
___ day of March, 2012.


THE HONORABLE RONALD L. ELLIS
United States Magistrate Judge

MAR 07 2012

CR 12 (Rev. 5/03)

WARRANT FOR ARREST

<p><i>United States District Court</i></p>		<p>DISTRICT</p> <p>SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK</p>	
<p>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</p> <p>v.</p> <p>ALI HAMEDI, a/k/a "Ali Mohammad Hamedii"</p>		<p>DOCKET NO.</p> <p>12 MAG</p>	<p>MAGISTRATE'S CASE NO.</p> <p>623</p>
<p>WARRANT ISSUED ON THE BASIS OF: <input type="checkbox"/> Order of Court <input type="checkbox"/> Indictment <input type="checkbox"/> Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complaint</p>		<p>NAME AND ADDRESS OF INDIVIDUAL TO BE ARRESTED</p> <p>ALI HAMEDI, a/k/a "Ali Mohammad Hamedii"</p>	
<p>TO: UNITED STATES MARSHAL OR ANY OTHER AUTHORIZED OFFICER</p>		<p>DISTRICT OF ARREST</p>	
<p>YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to arrest the above-named person and bring that person before the United States District Court to answer to the charge(s) listed below.</p>		<p>CITY</p>	
<p>DESCRIPTION OF CHARGES</p> <p>Conspiracy to Violate of the Narcotics Laws of the United States</p>			
<p>IN VIOLATION OF</p>	<p>UNITED STATES CODE TITLE</p> <p>21</p>	<p>SECTION</p> <p>846</p>	
<p>BAIL</p>	<p>OTHER CONDITIONS OF RELEASE</p>		
<p>ORDERED BY</p> <p>RONALD L. ELLIS United States Magistrate Southern District of New York</p>	<p>SIGNATURE (FEDERAL JUDGE/U.S. MAGISTRATE)</p> 		<p>DATE ORDERED</p>
<p>CLERK OF COURT</p>	<p>(BY) DEPUTY CLERK</p>		<p>DATE ISSUED</p> <p>MAR 07 2012</p>
<p>RETURN</p> <p>This warrant was received and executed with the arrest of the above-named person.</p>			
<p>DATE RECEIVED</p>	<p>NAME AND TITLE OF ARRESTING OFFICER</p>	<p>SIGNATURE OF ARRESTING OFFICER</p>	
<p>DATE EXECUTED</p>			

Note: The arresting officer is directed to serve the attached copy of the charge on the defendant at the time this warrant is executed.