

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :  
 :  
 - v. - :  
 :  
 JUSTIS COLON, :  
 a/k/a "Jus Blaze," :  
 a/k/a "JB," :  
 a/k/a "Bin Laden," and :  
 ARIEL MARTINEZ, :  
 a/k/a "Rel," :  
 :  
 Defendants. :  
----- X

SEALED INDICTMENT

22 Cr.

22 CRIM 545

COUNT ONE  
(Racketeering Conspiracy)

The Grand Jury charges:

1. From at least in or about 2014, up to and including in or about September 2022, JUSTIS COLON, a/k/a "Jus Blaze," a/k/a "JB," a/k/a "Bin Laden," and ARIEL MARTINEZ, a/k/a "Rel," the defendants, and others known and unknown, were members and associates of a criminal organization that operated principally in the Castle Hill neighborhood of the Bronx, New York ("670" or the "Enterprise"). Members and associates of 670 engaged in, among other activities, narcotics trafficking, bank fraud, burglaries, and acts involving murder and assault.

2. 670, including its leadership, its membership, and its associates, constituted an "enterprise," as defined by Title

18, United States Code, Section 1961(4), that is, a group of individuals associated in fact, although not a legal entity. 670 constituted an ongoing organization whose members functioned as a continuing unit for a common purpose of achieving the objectives of 670. At all times relevant to this Indictment, 670 was engaged in, and its activities affected, interstate and foreign commerce.

3. JUSTIS COLON, a/k/a "Jus Blaze," a/k/a "JB," a/k/a "Bin Laden," and ARIEL MARTINEZ, a/k/a "Rel," the defendants; participated in unlawful and other activities in furtherance of the conduct of 670's affairs.

#### PURPOSES OF 670

4. The purposes of 670 included the following:

a. Preserving and protecting the power and territory of 670 and its members and associates through acts involving murder, assault, other acts of violence, and threats of violence.

b. Enriching the members and associates of 670 through, among other things, (1) the distribution of narcotics, including heroin, cocaine base in a form commonly known as "crack," oxycodone, and marijuana; (2) financial frauds; and (3) commercial burglaries.

c. Promoting and enhancing 670 and the reputation and activities of its members and associates.

MEANS AND METHODS OF 670

5. Among the means and methods employed by the members and associates in conducting and participating in the conduct of the affairs of 670 were the following:

a. Members and associates of 670 committed and conspired, attempted, and threatened to commit, acts of violence, including acts involving murder and assault, to protect and to expand 670's criminal operations, resolve disputes within 670, and to retaliate against rival gangs.

b. Members and associates of 670 sold narcotics, including heroin, cocaine base in a form commonly known as "crack," oxycodone, and marijuana.

c. Members and associates of 670 committed financial frauds by (1) depositing fraudulent checks into bank accounts controlled by members and associates of 670, and (2) submitting fraudulent unemployment claims.

d. Members and associates of 670 committed commercial burglaries.

e. Members and associates of 670 obtained, possessed, and used firearms and ammunition.

THE RACKETEERING CONSPIRACY

6. From at least in or about 2014, up to and including in or about September 2022, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, JUSTIS COLON, a/k/a "Jus Blaze," a/k/a "JB," a/k/a

"Bin Laden," and ARIEL MARTINEZ, a/k/a "Rel," the defendants, and others known and unknown, being persons employed by and associated with the racketeering enterprise described in Paragraphs One through Five of this Indictment, namely, 670, which enterprise engaged in, and the activities of which affected, interstate and foreign commerce, knowingly combined, conspired, confederated, and agreed together and with each other to violate the racketeering laws of the United States, to wit, Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962(c), that is, to conduct and participate, directly and indirectly, in the conduct of the affairs of 670 through a pattern of racketeering activity, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1961(1) and 1961(5), consisting of:

a. multiple acts involving murder, chargeable under the following provisions of state law: New York Penal Law, Sections 125.25 (murder), 105.15 (conspiracy), 110.00 (attempt), and 20.00 (aiding and abetting);

b. multiple acts involving the distribution of controlled substances, including heroin, cocaine base in a form commonly known as "crack," oxycodone, and marijuana chargeable under Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) (distribution and possession with intent to distribute) and 846 (conspiracy), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2 (aiding and abetting);

c. multiple acts indictable under Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 (wire fraud) and 1344 (bank fraud), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2 (aiding and abetting).

7. It was a part of the conspiracy that each defendant agreed that a conspirator would commit at least two acts of racketeering activity in the conduct of the affairs of 670.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL SENTENCING FACTORS

8. On or about April 23, 2022, in the Southern District of New York, JUSTIS COLON, a/k/a "Jus Blaze," a/k/a "JB," a/k/a "Bin Laden," and ARIEL MARTINEZ, a/k/a "Rel," the defendants, and others known and unknown, knowingly and intentionally murdered Joshua Garcia, in that, 1) with the intent to cause the death of Joshua Garcia, COLON and MARTINEZ caused the death of Joshua Garcia; and, 2) under circumstances evincing a depraved indifference to human life, COLON and MARTINEZ did recklessly engage in conduct which created a grave risk of death to another person, and thereby caused the death of Joshua Garcia, to wit, COLON and MARTINEZ shot at rival gang members, and aided and abetted the shooting of rival gang members, in the vicinity of 1713 Clay Avenue in the Bronx, New York, which resulted in the death of Joshua Garcia, in violation of New York Penal Law, Sections 125.25 and 20.00.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962(d).)

COUNT TWO

**(Violent Crime in Aid of Racketeering - Joshua Garcia)**

The Grand Jury further charges:

9. At all times relevant to this Indictment, 670, as described in Paragraphs One through Five of Count One of this Indictment, which are repeated and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein, including its leadership, members, and associates, constituted an enterprise, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1959(b)(2), that is, an association in fact of individuals which is engaged in, and the activities of which affected, interstate and foreign commerce. 670 constituted an ongoing organization whose members functioned as a continuing unit for a common purpose of achieving the objectives of 670.

10. At all relevant times to this Indictment, 670, through its members and associates, engaged in racketeering activity, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1961(1) and 1959(b)(1), namely acts involving murder, in violation of New York Penal Law; acts indictable under Title 21, United States Code, Sections 812, 841, and 846 (narcotics trafficking); and acts indictable under Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343, 1344, and 2 (bank and wire fraud).

11. On or about April 23, 2022, in the Southern District of New York, JUSTIS COLON, a/k/a "Jus Blaze," a/k/a "JB," a/k/a

"Bin Laden," and ARIEL MARTINEZ, a/k/a "Rel," the defendants, and others known and unknown, as consideration for the receipt of, and as consideration for a promise and agreement to pay, a thing of pecuniary value from 670, and for the purpose of gaining entrance to and maintaining and increasing position in 670, an enterprise engaged in racketeering activity, as described above, knowingly and intentionally murdered Joshua Garcia, and aided and abetted the same and intentionally caused the same, in that, 1) with the intent to cause the death of Joshua Garcia, COLON and MARTINEZ caused the death of Joshua Garcia, and, 2) under circumstances evincing a depraved indifference to human life, COLON and MARTINEZ did recklessly engage in conduct which created a grave risk of death to another person, and thereby caused the death of Joshua Garcia, to wit, COLON and MARTINEZ shot at rival gang members, and aided and abetted the shooting of rival gang members, in the vicinity of 1713 Clay Avenue in the Bronx, New York, which resulted in the death of Joshua Garcia, in violation of New York Penal Law, Sections 125.25 and 20.00.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1959(a)(1) and 2.)

**COUNT THREE**

**(Murder Through the Use of a Firearm - Joshua Garcia)**

The Grand Jury further charges:

12. On or about April 23, 2022, in the Southern District of New York, JUSTIS COLON, a/k/a "Jus Blaze," a/k/a "JB," a/k/a

"Bin Laden," and ARIEL MARTINEZ, a/k/a "Rel," the defendants, willfully and knowingly, during and in relation to a crime of violence for which they may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, namely, the violent crime in aid of racketeering charged in Count Two of this Indictment, did use and carry firearms, and, in furtherance of such crime, did possess firearms, and in the course of that crime did cause the death of a person through the use of a firearm, which killing is murder as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1111(a), and did aid and abet the same, to wit, COLON and MARTINEZ shot at rival gang members, and aided and abetted the shooting of rival gang members, in the vicinity of 1713 Clay Avenue in the Bronx, New York, which resulted in the death of Joshua Garcia.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 924(j) and 2.)

SPECIAL FINDINGS AS TO JUSTIS COLON  
REGARDING THE MURDER OF JOSHUA GARCIA

13. Counts Two and Three of the Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein. As to Counts Two and Three of the Indictment, alleging the murder of Joshua Garcia, JUSTIS COLON, a/k/a "Jus Blaze," a/k/a "JB," a/k/a "Bin Laden," the defendant:

a. was 18 years of age or older at the time of the offenses;



b. intentionally killed the victim (Title 18, United States Code, Section 3591(a) (2) (A));

c. intentionally inflicted serious bodily injury that resulted in the death of the victim (Title 18, United States Code, Section 3591(a) (2) (B));

d. intentionally participated in an act, contemplating that the life of a person would be taken and intending that lethal force would be used in connection with a person, other than one of the participants in the offenses, and Joshua Garcia died as a direct result of the act (Title 18, United States Code, Section 3591 (a) (2) (C)); and,

e. intentionally and specifically engaged in an act of violence, knowing that the act created a grave risk of death to a person, other than one of the participants in the offenses, such that participation in the act constituted a reckless disregard for human life and the victim died as a direct result of the act. (Title 18, United States Code, Section 3591(a) (2) (D)).

SPECIAL FINDINGS AS TO ARIEL MARTINEZ  
REGARDING THE MURDER OF JOSHUA GARCIA

14. Counts Two and Three of the Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein. As to Counts Two and Three of the Indictment, alleging the

murder of Joshua Garcia, ARIEL MARTINEZ, a/k/a "Rel," the defendant:

a. was 18 years of age or older at the time of the offenses;

b. intentionally participated in an act, contemplating that the life of a person would be taken and intending that lethal force would be used in connection with a person, other than one of the participants in the offenses, and Joshua Garcia died as a direct result of the act (Title 18, United States Code, Section 3591 (a) (2) (C)); and,

c. intentionally and specifically engaged in an act of violence, knowing that the act created a grave risk of death to a person, other than one of the participants in the offenses, such that participation in the act constituted a reckless disregard for human life and the victim died as a direct result of the act. (Title 18, United States Code, Section 3591(a)(2)(D)).

**COUNT FOUR**

**(Violent Crime in Aid of Racketeering - Victim-1)**

The Grand Jury further charges:

15. At all times relevant to this Indictment, 670, as described in Paragraphs One through Five of Count One of this Indictment, which are repeated and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein, including its leadership, members, and associates, constituted an enterprise, as that term is defined

in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1959(b)(2), that is, an association in fact of individuals which is engaged in, and the activities of which affected, interstate and foreign commerce. 670 constituted an ongoing organization whose members functioned as a continuing unit for a common purpose of achieving the objectives of 670.

16. At all relevant times to this Indictment, 670, through its members and associates, engaged in racketeering activity, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1961(1) and 1959(b)(1), namely acts involving murder, in violation of New York Penal Law; acts indictable under Title 21, United States Code, Sections 812, 841, and 846 (narcotics trafficking); and acts indictable under Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343, 1344, and 2 (bank and wire fraud).

17. On or about April 23, 2022, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, JUSTIS COLON, a/k/a "Jus Blaze," a/k/a "JB," a/k/a "Bin Laden," and ARIEL MARTINEZ, a/k/a "Rel," the defendants, and others known and unknown, as consideration for the receipt of, and as consideration for a promise and agreement to pay, a thing of pecuniary value from 670, and for the purpose of gaining entrance to and maintaining and increasing position in 670, an enterprise engaged in racketeering activity, as described above, knowingly assaulted an individual with a dangerous weapon and attempted to murder an individual, and aided and abetted the

same, to wit, COLON and MARTINEZ shot at rival gang members, and aided and abetted the shooting of rival gang members, in the vicinity of 1713 Clay Avenue in the Bronx, New York, which resulted in Victim-1 being shot in the arm, in violation of New York Penal Law, Sections 120.05(2), 125.25, 110.00, and 20.00.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1959(a)(3),  
1959(a)(5), and 2.)

**COUNT FIVE**  
**(Firearm Offense - Victim-1)**

The Grand Jury further charges:

18. On or about April 23, 2022, in the Southern District of New York, JUSTIS COLON, a/k/a "Jus Blaze," a/k/a "JB," a/k/a "Bin Laden," and ARIEL MARTINEZ, a/k/a "Rel," the defendants, during and in relation to a crime of violence for which they may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, namely the violent crime in aid of racketeering charged in Count Four of this Indictment, knowingly did use and carry a firearm, and in furtherance of such crime, did possess a firearm, which was brandished and discharged, and did aid and abet the same.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 924(c)(1)(A)(i),  
(ii), (iii), and 2.)

**COUNT SIX**  
**(Violent Crime in Aid of Racketeering - Victim-2)**

The Grand Jury further charges:

19. At all times relevant to this Indictment, 670, as described in Paragraphs One through Five of Count One of this

Indictment, which are repeated and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein, including its leadership, members, and associates, constituted an enterprise, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1959(b)(2), that is, an association in fact of individuals which is engaged in, and the activities of which affected, interstate and foreign commerce. 670 constituted an ongoing organization whose members functioned as a continuing unit for a common purpose of achieving the objectives of 670.

20. At all relevant times to this Indictment, 670, through its members and associates, engaged in racketeering activity, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1961(1) and 1959(b)(1), namely acts involving murder, in violation of New York Penal Law; acts indictable under Title 21, United States Code, Sections 812, 841, and 846 (narcotics trafficking); and acts indictable under Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343, 1344, and 2 (bank and wire fraud).

21. On or about April 23, 2022, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, JUSTIS COLON, a/k/a "Jus Blaze," a/k/a "JB," a/k/a "Bin Laden," and ARIEL MARTINEZ, a/k/a "Rel," the defendants, and others known and unknown, as consideration for the receipt of, and as consideration for a promise and agreement to pay, a thing of pecuniary value from 670, and for the purpose of gaining entrance to and maintaining and increasing position in

670, an enterprise engaged in racketeering activity, as described above, knowingly assaulted an individual with a dangerous weapon and attempted to murder an individual, and aided and abetted the same, to wit, COLON and MARTINEZ shot at rival gang members, and aided and abetted the shooting of rival gang members, in the vicinity of 1713 Clay Avenue in the Bronx, New York, which resulted in Victim-2 being shot in the leg, in violation of New York Penal Law, Sections 120.05(2), 125.25, 110.00, and 20.00.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1959(a)(3),  
1959(a)(5), and 2.)

**COUNT SEVEN**  
**(Firearm Offense - Victim-2)**

The Grand Jury further charges:

22. On or about April 23, 2022, in the Southern District of New York, JUSTIS COLON, a/k/a "Jus Blaze," a/k/a "JB," a/k/a "Bin Laden," and ARIEL MARTINEZ, a/k/a "Rel," the defendants, during and in relation to a crime of violence for which they may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, namely the violent crime in aid of racketeering charged in Count Six of this Indictment, knowingly did use and carry a firearm, and in furtherance of such crime, did possess a firearm, which was brandished and discharged, and did aid and abet the same.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 924(c)(1)(A)(i),  
(ii), (iii), and 2.)

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION AS TO COUNT ONE

23. As a result of committing the offense alleged in Count One of this Indictment, JUSTIS COLON, a/k/a "Jus Blaze," a/k/a "JB," a/k/a "Bin Laden," and ARIEL MARTINEZ, a/k/a "Rel," the defendants, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1963:

a. any interest acquired and maintained in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962, which interests are subject to forfeiture to the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1963(a)(1);

b. any interest in, security of, claims against, and property and contractual rights of any kind affording a source of influence over, the enterprise which the defendant has established, operated, controlled, conducted, and participated in the conduct of, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962, which interests, securities, claims, and rights are subject to forfeiture to the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1963(a)(2); and

c. any property constituting and derived from any proceeds which the defendant obtained, directly and indirectly, from racketeering activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962, which property is subject to forfeiture to the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1963(a)(3).

Substitute Assets Provision

24. 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;

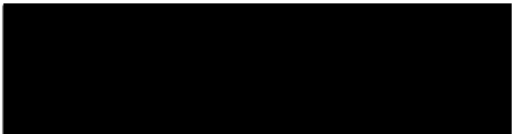
c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;

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 18, United States Code, Section 1963(m), Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendants up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 1963;  
Title 21, United States Code, Section 853; and  
Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461.)



10/12/22

  
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DAMIAN WILLIAMS  
United States Attorney



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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- v. -

JUSTIS COLON,  
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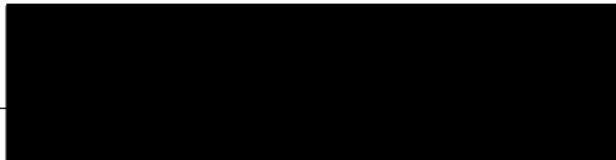
Defendants.

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SEALED INDICTMENT

22 Cr.  
(18 U.S.C. §§ 924(c), 924(j), 1959,  
1962, and 2;)

DAMIAN WILLIAMS  
United States Attorney



10/19/22