

WMP:JPL  
F. #2016R01586

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PLEA AGREEMENT

- against -

16 CR 627 (NGG)

SAMUEL MEBIAME,

Defendant.

----- X

Pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York and the Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Fraud Section (collectively the "Office") and SAMUEL MEBIAME (the "defendant") agree to the following:

1. The defendant will waive indictment and plead guilty to an information to be filed in this district, charging a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371. The count carries the following statutory penalties:

- a. Maximum term of imprisonment: 5 years (18 U.S.C. § 371).
- b. Minimum term of imprisonment: 0 years (18 U.S.C. § 371).
- c. Maximum supervised release term: 3 years, to follow any term of imprisonment; if a condition of release is violated, the defendant may be sentenced to up to 2 years without credit for pre-release imprisonment or time previously served on post-release supervision (18 U.S.C. § 3583 (b) & (e)).

- d. Maximum fine: Greater of \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or twice the gross loss  
(18 U.S.C. § 3571(b)(2), (b)(5) and (e)).
- e. Restitution: Mandatory in the full amount of each victim's losses as determined by the Court  
(18 U.S.C. §§ 3663A and 3664).
- f. \$100 special assessment  
(18 U.S.C. § 3013).
- g. Other penalties: removal, as set forth below in paragraph 6.

2. The defendant understands that although imposition of a sentence in accordance with the United States Sentencing Guidelines (the "Guidelines" and "U.S.S.G.") is not mandatory, the Guidelines are advisory and the Court is required to consider any applicable Guidelines provisions as well as other factors enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) to arrive at an appropriate sentence in this case. The Office will advise the Court and the Probation Department of information relevant to sentencing, including criminal activity engaged in by the defendant, and such information may be used by the Court in determining the defendant's sentence. See 18 U.S.C. § 3661 ("No limitation shall be placed on the information concerning the background, character, and conduct of a person convicted of an offense which a court of the United States may receive and consider for the purpose of imposing an appropriate sentence."). The Office estimates the likely adjusted offense level under the Guidelines to be 36, which is predicated on the following Guidelines calculation:

Base Offense Level (§ 2C1.1(a)(2))	12
Plus: More than one bribe (§ 2C1.1(b)(1))	+2
Plus: Value of the benefit received in excess of \$3.5 million (§§ 2C1.1(b)(2); 2B1.1(b)(1)(J))	+18

Plus:	Offense involved high-level public official (§ 2C1.1(b)(3))	<u>+4</u>
Total:		36

If the defendant clearly demonstrates acceptance of responsibility, through allocution and subsequent conduct prior to the imposition of sentence, a two-level reduction will be warranted, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a), resulting in an adjusted offense level of 34 and a range of imprisonment of 151 - 188 months, assuming that the defendant falls within Criminal History Category I. However, because of the statutory maximum sentence, the effective Guidelines range of imprisonment is 60 months. Furthermore, if the defendant has accepted responsibility as described above, to the satisfaction of the Office, and if the defendant pleads guilty on or before December 9, 2016 an additional one-level reduction will be warranted, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b), resulting in an adjusted offense level of 33. This level carries a range of imprisonment of 135 - 168 months, assuming that the defendant falls within Criminal History Category I. However, because of the statutory maximum sentence, the effective Guidelines range of imprisonment is 60 months.

3. The Guidelines estimate set forth in paragraph 2 is not binding on the Office, the Probation Department or the Court. If the Guidelines offense level advocated by the Office, or determined by the Probation Department or the Court, is, for any reason, including an error in the estimate, different from the estimate, the defendant will not be entitled to withdraw the plea and the government will not be deemed to have breached this agreement.

4. The defendant agrees not to file an appeal or otherwise challenge, by petition pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 or any other provision, the conviction or sentence in the

event that the Court imposes a term of imprisonment of 60 months or below. This waiver is binding without regard to the sentencing analysis used by the Court. The defendant waives all defenses based on the statute of limitations and venue with respect to any prosecution that is not time-barred on the date that this agreement is signed in the event that (a) the defendant's conviction is later vacated for any reason, (b) the defendant violates this agreement, or (c) the defendant's plea is later withdrawn. Nothing in the foregoing waiver of appellate and collateral review rights shall preclude the defendant from raising a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel in an appropriate forum. The defendant waives any right to additional disclosure from the government in connection with the guilty plea. The defendant agrees that with respect to all charges referred to in paragraphs 1 and 5(a) he is not a "prevailing party" within the meaning of the "Hyde Amendment," 18 U.S.C. § 3006A note, and will not file any claim under that law. The defendant agrees to pay the special assessment by check payable to the Clerk of the Court at or before sentencing. The defendant understands that he may be subject to removal as set forth in paragraph 6 below. Nevertheless, the defendant affirms that he wants to plead guilty and to waive his right to appeal as set forth at the beginning of this paragraph, even if the consequence is the defendant's automatic removal from the United States.

5. The Office agrees that:

- a. no further criminal charges will be brought against the defendant for making corrupt payments to foreign officials in Chad, Niger and Guinea or money laundering in connection therewith, it being understood that this agreement does not bar the use of such conduct as a predicate act or as the basis for a sentencing enhancement in a subsequent prosecution including, but not limited to, a prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961 et seq.;

and, based upon information now known to the Office, it will

- b. take no position concerning where within the Guidelines range determined by the Court the sentence should fall; and
- c. make no motion for an upward departure under the Sentencing Guidelines.

If information relevant to sentencing, as determined by the Office, becomes known to the Office after the date of this agreement, the Office will not be bound by paragraphs 5(b) and 5(c). Should it be judged by the Office that the defendant has violated any provision of this agreement, the defendant will not be released from his plea of guilty but this Office will be released from its obligations under this agreement, including but not limited to: (a) moving for the additional one-level downward adjustment for timely acceptance of responsibility described in paragraph 2 above; and (b) the provisions of paragraphs 5(a)-(c).

6. The defendant recognizes that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to the defendant's immigration status if the defendant is not a citizen of the United States. Under federal law, a broad range of crimes are removable offenses, including the offense(s) to which the defendant is pleading guilty. Indeed, because the defendant is pleading guilty to conspiracy to violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, in violation of Title 15, United States Code, Section 78dd-3, removal is presumptively mandatory. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding, however, and the defendant understands that no one, including the defendant's attorney or the Court, can predict with certainty the effect of the defendant's conviction on the defendant's immigration status. The defendant nevertheless affirms that the defendant wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that the defendant's plea may entail, even if the consequence is the defendant's automatic removal from the United States.

7. This agreement does not bind any federal, state, or local prosecuting authority other than the Office, and does not prohibit the Office from initiating or prosecuting any civil or administrative proceedings directly or indirectly involving the defendant.

8. If the defendant is eligible and applies to transfer his sentence to France pursuant to the international prisoner transfer program, the Office will not oppose the defendant's application. The defendant acknowledges and understands, however, that the transfer decision rests in the sole discretion of the Office of Enforcement Operations ("OEO") of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice and that the position of the Office is neither binding on nor determinative of the positions of other federal agencies or on the final transfer decision of OEO. The defendant further understands that in addition to OEO, federal law and the underlying transfer treaties require that the foreign government must also approve the transfer.

9. Apart from any written proffer agreements, if applicable, no promises, agreements or conditions have been entered into by the parties other than those set forth in this agreement and none will be entered into unless memorialized in writing and signed by

all parties. Apart from any written proffer agreements, if applicable, this agreement supersedes all prior promises, agreements or conditions between the parties. To become effective, this agreement must be signed by all signatories listed below.

Dated: Brooklyn, New York  
December \_\_, 2016

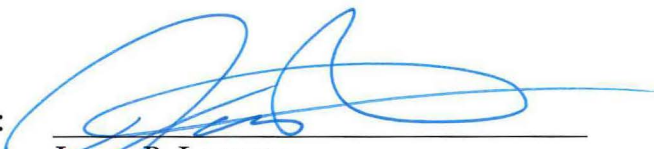
ROBERT L. CAPERS

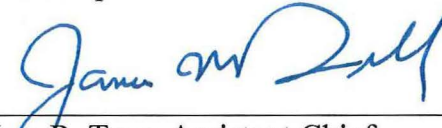
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of New York

SANDRA L. MOSER


Principal Deputy Chief  
Criminal Division, Fraud Section  
U.S. Department of Justice

By:

  
James P. Loonam  
Jonathan Lax  
David Pitluck  
Assistant United States Attorneys

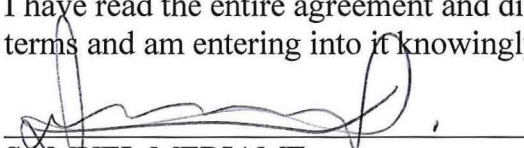
  
Leo R. Tsao, Assistant Chief  
James P. McDonald, Trial Attorney

Approved by:

  
Winston Paes  
Supervising Assistant U.S. Attorney

  
Daniel S. Kahn  
Deputy Chief, Fraud Section

I have read the entire agreement and discussed it with my attorney. I understand all of its terms and am entering into it knowingly and voluntarily.

  
SAMUEL MEBIAME  
Defendant

Approved by:

  
Larry H. Krantz  
Counsel to Defendant