

2025R00873/CSS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Hon. *Zahid N. Quraishi*

v.

Crim. No. 26- *226*

ZHEJUN PIAO

18 U.S.C. § 371

INFORMATION

The defendant having waived in open court prosecution by Indictment, the United States charges:

COUNT 1

(Conspiracy to Commit Interstate Travel or Transportation in Aid of a Racketeering Enterprise)

Introduction

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From at least as early as in or around May 2017 through on or about August 8, 2024, defendant Zhejun Piao ("PIAO"), and others were part of a conspiracy to own, manage, and operate illicit massage parlors, sometimes referred to as spas, brothels, or Asian massage parlors, in New Jersey and New York knowing that the massage parlors sold sexual services to customers. PIAO and others (the "Conspirators") used facilities in interstate commerce to advertise sexual services, communicate with customers about sexual services, receive money for the performance of sexual services, and otherwise operate the massage parlors.

Relevant Individuals and Entities

2. At times relevant to this Information:

a. PIAO was a resident of Palisades Park, New Jersey.

b. Miyeon Choi, one of PIAO's Conspirators, was a resident of

Palisades Park.

c. Co-Conspirator-1, one of PIAO's Conspirators, was a resident of Palisades Park.

d. Co-Conspirator-2, one of PIAO's Conspirators, was a resident of Palisades Park.

e. PIAO and his Conspirators owned and operated the following illicit massage parlors (individually a "Spa," and collectively, the "Spas"):

- i. Coco Health and Fitness, Inc. a/k/a/ Coco Spa ("Coco Spa") in Paterson, New Jersey;
- ii. Gold Spa, Inc. ("Gold Spa") in Passaic, New Jersey;
- iii. 785 Spa, Inc. ("785 Spa") in Passaic;
- iv. Bergen Acupressure Corp. a/k/a 365 Spa ("365 Spa") in Fairview, New Jersey;
- v. JRNG, Inc. d/b/a Queen Spa ("Queen Spa") in Edgewater, New Jersey;
- vi. Hawaii Spa, Inc. ("Hawaii Spa") in Edgewater;
- vii. Good Day Spa in East Brunswick, New Jersey;
- viii. Spa Wellness in Toms River, New Jersey; and
- ix. New Soothing Day Spa in New Rochelle, New York.

The Conspiracy

3. From at least as early as in or around May 2017 through on or about August 8, 2024, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant,

ZHEJUN PIAO,

did knowingly and intentionally conspire and agree with others, including but not limited to Miyeon Choi, Co-Conspirator-1, and Co-Conspirator-2, to commit offenses against the United States, that is, to travel in interstate commerce and use the mail and any facility in interstate commerce, with intent to promote, manage, establish, and carry on, and to facilitate the promotion, management, establishment, and carrying on of, any unlawful activity, to wit, prostitution and promotion of prostitution, in violation of New Jersey Revised Statutes Section 2C:34-1(b)(1), (2), and (8), contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1952(a)(3).

Goal of the Conspiracy

4. The goal of the conspiracy was for Choi, PIAO, Co-Conspirator-1, Co-Conspirator-2, and other Conspirators to enrich themselves through the online advertisement, promotion, and facilitation of prostitution in New Jersey and New York.

Manner and Means

5. During the course of the conspiracy, Choi, PIAO, Co-Conspirator-1, Co-Conspirator-2, and others owned, managed, promoted, carried on, and facilitated the Spas.

6. Each of the Spas operated in a similar way:

a. Most of the women who worked at the Spas were of either Chinese or Korean ethnicity and spoke limited English.

b. Women who worked at each of the Spas provided sexual services to paying customers, including sexual intercourse, fellatio, and masturbation of customers.

c. Customers of the Spas typically paid \$160 or \$175 for the sexual services, depending on whether the customer paid with cash or by credit card, respectively. The Spas accepted payment by cash, credit card, or mobile app.

d. Each of the Spas had a dedicated cell phone that customers could call or text to make an appointment and inquire about the sex workers working on a particular day and the services offered.

e. The Spas typically opened for service from approximately 8:00 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week.

f. Most of the women who worked at the Spas resided in Flushing, New York when they were not working. When they did work, the women typically lived at each of the Spas—eating, sleeping, and bathing at the Spas.

g. At any given time, each Spa employed between four and ten women, with some women offering unlawful sexual services to approximately twenty men a day. Employees at each Spa typically completed ledgers that recorded the workers' appointments throughout each working day. For example, a ledger for one of the Spas dated August 4, 2024, which law enforcement recovered from Co-Conspirator-1 and Co-Conspirator-2's residence, showed that that Spa employed

seven women who provided unlawful sexual services at least 136 men that day, with the first appointment booked at approximately 8:05 a.m. and the last appointment booked at approximately midnight.

h. Each of the Spas was typically held in someone else's name other than Choi, PIAO, Co-Conspirator-1, or Co-Conspirator-2 on lease agreements, utility agreements, or business licenses, although Choi and PIAO were listed as signatories on bank accounts for the Spas.

i. The Spas advertised online using social media or advertising websites, providing the address for the Spas, a telephone number, the hours of operation, sexual services offered, fees charged, pictures of female sex workers, descriptions of the female sex workers, and other details about the business.

j. Most of the Spas provided customers with loyalty or rewards cards whereby customers would receive a stamp for each visit and receive a free visit after collecting a certain number of stamps.

7. As owners and operators of the Spas, the roles and responsibilities of Choi, PIAO, Co-Conspirator-1, and Co-Conspirator-2 included, among other things, the following:

- a. Choi recruited women to work at each of the Spas.
- b. Choi, PIAO, and Co-Conspirator-2 communicated with customers for the Spas and booked appointments.

c. Choi, PIAO, and Co-Conspirator-1 purchased supplies, often in bulk from a wholesaler, including groceries, mouthwash, cleaning supplies, birth control, and medications, and delivered them to the Spas.

d. Choi and PIAO stored tens of thousands of condoms at their residence, and Choi, PIAO, and Co-Conspirator-1 typically provided large quantities of unwrapped condoms, which were often referred to by the Conspirators using Korean terms for “rubbers” or “rubber bands,” to the Spas in plastic bags.

e. Choi and PIAO transported or caused the transportation of women to each of the Spas.

f. Choi, PIAO, and Co-Conspirator-1 picked up or caused to be picked up ledgers and cash—constituting proceeds of unlawful sexual services—from the Spas.

g. Choi and PIAO controlled the money generated by each of the Spas as either signatories on bank accounts for the Spas, accepting payment to their accounts by mobile app, or by retaining cash in their residence, including approximately \$312,780 in the Spa bank accounts and approximately \$1.2 million in cash at Choi and PIAO’s residence that law enforcement seized.

h. Choi and PIAO advertised or caused other individuals to advertise the Spas online featuring pictures of nude or scantily dressed women with descriptions of the unlawful sexual services offered.

i. Choi and Co-Conspirator-2 coordinated repairs at the Spas and maintained business records for the Spas.

j. Choi aimed to undercut competitors in the illicit commercial sex industry by reporting those companies and their advertisements to be closed or taken down.

Overt Acts

8. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect its illegal objects, PIAO and the Conspirators committed the following overt acts, among others, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere:

a. On or about October 16, 2017, Choi signed bank documents as the Secretary of Gold Spa and became an authorized signatory on Gold Spa's bank account.

b. On or about February 12, 2018, PIAO filed incorporation documents for Queen Spa with the New Jersey Department of Treasury listing himself as the President and Director of Queen Spa.

c. On or about August 20, 2021, Choi emailed Company A to request a competitor's advertisements be taken down from Company A's website.

d. On or about August 21, 2021, 365 Spa submitted documents to a bank listing PIAO as an authorized signatory and 50% owner.

e. On or about September 29, 2021, Choi became an authorized signatory on New Soothing Day Spa's bank account.

f. On or about September 1, 2022, Choi worked with another individual to post advertisements online that offered sexual services for customers at Queen Spa, 365 Spa, Hawaii Spa, 785 Spa, Gold Spa, and New Soothing Day Spa.

g. On or about October 27, 2022, Choi became a signatory on a bank account for Queen Spa.

h. On or about October 31, 2022, PIAO opened a bank account for 785 Spa listing himself as the President.

i. On or about January 6, 2023, PIAO transported two women, one of whom had a suitcase, from Gold Spa to another location.

j. On or about January 30, 2023, Co-Conspirator-1 delivered groceries to Gold Spa.

k. On or about April 19, 2023, Choi messaged Co-Conspirator-2 in Korean stating, in sum and substance, that she wanted to report a competitor's spa to the police because the spa was opening spas in the vicinity of Choi's Spas. Choi asked Co-Conspirator-2 to proofread a letter to be sent to the police and to print off sexually explicit advertisements for the spa to be sent with the letter. Seeking to drive the competitor spa out of business, Choi drafted the letter reporting the competitor for the unlawful sale of sex, *i.e.*, the same activities in which the Conspirators' Spas were engaged.

l. On or about September 23, 2023, Choi emailed Co-Conspirator-2 six advertisements for Good Day Spa that included pictures of half-dressed or scantily dressed women with the name of each worker as well as the name and telephone number for Good Day Spa. One of the advertisements also stated: "5 Young K-GIRLS New Lineup." A few minutes after sending that email, Choi also emailed Co-Conspirator-2 advertising language that stated, in part: "5 YOUNG GIRLS . . .

EVERY WEEK NEW GIRL . . . Highly Trained 1000% Young Asian Korean & Japanese Girls . . . Hot Nuru Gel B2B . . . THE ONLY PLACE THAT GIVES YOU A 'BIG SMILE' AT THE END.”

m. On or about November 27, 2023, Choi emailed Co-Conspirator-2 an unsigned copy of a lease agreement for Good Day Spa. On or about November 29, 2023, Co-Conspirator-2 emailed Choi a copy of the lease agreement signed by a representative of Good Day Spa.

n. On or about December 27, 2023, Choi messaged Co-Conspirator-1 in Korean directing Co-Conspirator-1, in sum and substance, to purchase vaginal medication, bladder medication, antibiotics, cold medications, and birth control from a pharmacy.

o. On or about December 28, 2023, Choi messaged Co-Conspirator-1 in Korean providing, in sum and substance, a grocery list for Good Day Spa and instructed him to take a bag of “rubber bands.”

p. On or about January 16, 2024, Co-Conspirator-1 messaged Choi in Korean asking, in sum and substance, whether he should pick up the ledgers for Gold Spa and 785 Spa.

q. On or about February 4, 2024, the Hawaii Spa cell phone and a customer exchanged the following messages:

Customer	Yall have condoms right ? Don't want to catch anything
Hawaii Spa	Yes
Customer	I'm sure y'all are clean just to be safe
Hawaii Spa	Of course
Hawaii Spa	Don't worry about that
Customer	Do they give head too ?

Hawaii Spa	What's [emoji] mean?
Customer	Suck dick?
Hawaii Spa	Yes
Customer	With or without the condom ?
Customer	And what time do you close?
Hawaii Spa	2 am
Hawaii Spa	1034 River Rd, Edgewater, NJ 07020(Hawaii Spa) (★(Between [REDACTED] To [REDACTED] Parking lot)★ ♥6 YOUNG GIRLS♥.
Hawaii Spa	[Picture of Hawaii Spa]
Customer	Nice
Customer	Do they give head with or without the condom on ?
Hawaii Spa	Yes
Customer	Yes to which one ?
Hawaii Spa	Both
Customer	Last question if I finish am I able to go for a second round?
Hawaii Spa	200
Customer	Extra 40 for another round ?
Hawaii Spa	Yes
Hawaii Spa	2 cum 200

r. On or about February 12, 2024, Co-Conspirator-2 used the Hawaii Spa cell phone to send a customer the names of six female workers and the following: “1034 River Rd, Edgewater, NJ 07020(Hawaii Spa) (★(Between [REDACTED] To [REDACTED] Parking lot)★ ♥6 YOUNG GIRLS♥.” After the customer asked how much it would cost for no “massage Just fucking,” Co-Conspirator-2 responded from the Hawaii Spa cell phone, “160.” When the customer had trouble finding Hawaii Spa, Co-Conspirator-2 messaged Choi for instructions to give to the customer, which Co-Conspirator-2 then passed along to the customer using the Hawaii Spa cell phone.

s. On or about February 15, 2024, Co-Conspirator-2 messaged Choi in Korean asking, in sum and substance, whether it was possible to book an appointment for a customer with three women at Good Day Spa for \$450.

t. On or about February 15, 2024, Co-Conspirator-2 messaged Choi in Korean stating, in sum and substance, that a customer booked an appointment at Hawaii Spa for 7:00 p.m.

u. On or about March 6, 2024, Co-Conspirator-2 messaged Choi in Korean stating, in sum and substance, that customers booked appointments at Coco Spa, Good Day Spa, and Gold Spa.

v. On or about April 23, 2024, Choi messaged Co-Conspirator-2 invitations to group chats for Queen Spa and Hawaii Spa and directed Co-Conspirator-2 in Korean, in sum and substance, to send reservations to the group chats, identifying the time of the reservation, the name of the customer, and the last four digits of the customer's telephone number.

w. On or about April 30, 2024, Co-Conspirator-2 messaged Choi a picture of her holding a cell phone that included messages stating that multiple customers sent electronic payments of \$160 for Hawaii Spa.

x. On or about June 7, 2024, Choi messaged Co-Conspirator-1 in Korean directing Co-Conspirator-1, in sum and substance, to (i) purchase groceries for Good Day Spa, (ii) provide "rubber bands" to Good Day Spa and Coco Spa, and (iii) pick up ledgers from Good Day Spa and Coco Spa.

y. On or about July 12, 2024, Choi and Co-Conspirator-1 messaged each other in Korean about, in sum and substance, bringing supplies to Good Day Spa and Coco Spa, including "rubber bands," as well as shopping at a wholesaler for groceries and other items for the Spas.

z. On or about July 25, 2024, PIAO transported two women carrying baggage to Good Day Spa.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

1. Upon conviction of the conspiracy charged in this Information, the defendant,

ZHEJUN PIAO,

shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to such conspiracy.

2. The property subject to forfeiture includes, but is not limited to, the following items seized from the defendant's residence on or about August 8, 2024:

- (a) \$1,189,845 in U.S. currency
- (b) Louis Vuitton sunglasses with bag
- (c) JTV bracelet (silver & black)
- (d) Silver colored LukFook pendant with chain and clear stones
- (e) Silver colored earrings with clear stones, in Jared's box
- (f) Van Cleef & Arpel gold necklace with Mother of Pearl pendant
- (g) Gold colored bracelet with stars and ring in Laihing box
- (h) Gold bull figurine
- (i) Van Cleef & Arpel gold bracelet with 5 Mother of Pearl charms
- (j) Silver colored earrings with clear stones, in East Rutherford Jewelry Exchange box
- (k) Silver colored earrings with clear stones
- (l) Gold necklace with butterfly charm
- (m) Gold colored necklace or bracelet

- (n) Silver colored ring with clear stone in Laihing box
- (o) Silver colored Tiffany & Co Bracelet with key charm
- (p) Gold colored charm on red string in Lao Feng Xiang box
- (q) Gold colored bangle in Lao Feng Xiang box
- (r) Gold colored Bulgari bracelet (labeled as Necklace), gold and black cylindrical pendant with 2 smaller gold colored circles in box
- (s) Gold Bulgari necklace, gold cylindrical pendant in box
- (t) Red string bracelet with gold colored charms, in Ngan Ping Jewelry box
- (u) 1 oz \$50 American gold eagle coin (1998)
- (v) 37.5 gram Mexican 50 Peso gold coin (1821 & 1947)
- (w) Gold ring
- (x) Bow pin
- (y) 2 music note charms
- (z) Gold Colored bracelet with butterfly charm
- (aa) Cartier gold neckalce with circular charm in box
- (bb) Cartier gold nail bracelet with clear stones, in box
- (cc) Cartier gold bracelet in box with screw driver
- (dd) Rolex Oyster Perpetual DateJust Model #279136RBR in box
- (ee) Silver colored pedant with stone in center and silver colored chain
- (ff) 18K white gold and diamond ring
- (gg) Gold colored Rolex Yacht- Master II
- (hh) Silver colored Rolex GMT- Master II with red and blue bezzle

- (ii) Black Series 8 Apple Watch
- (jj) Gold colored Bulgari bracelet
- (kk) Gold chain with Dior pendant
- (ll) Gold necklace with H pendant
- (mm) Gold colored bracelet
- (nn) Gold colored earrings
- (oo) Heart shaped pin with pearls
- (pp) Hublot- Spirit of Big Bang Titanium
- (qq) Louis Vuitton rose gold ring with flower charm
- (rr) 18K white gold and diamond necklace in Luk FOOK box (0.71 carat VS2 stone)
- (ss) Pearl necklace, bracelet, and earrings (Ohrid Pearls)
- (tt) Dior bag with receipts
- (uu) Grey Hermes handbag with cloth bag
- (vv) Black Dior bag, original packaging
- (ww) UK black bag
- (xx) Black Chloe Chund bag
- (yy) White Marc Jacobs bag
- (zz) Black MCM purse
- (aaa) Black Marc Jacobs bag
- (bbb) Black leather bag with broken strap
- (ccc) UK grey bag with wooden handle
- (ddd) Black MCM backpack

- (eee) Grey Celine Pans handbag
- (fff) Grey Chanel bag
- (ggg) Christine Dior handbag
- (hhh) Goyard bag in Goyard Cloth Bag
- (iii) Blue handbag in D Yoon cloth bag
- (jjj) Black Chanel bag
- (kkk) Black Marc Jacobs tote bag
- (lll) Louis Vuitton wallet in box
- (mmm) White leather purse
- (nnn) Blue handbag

Substitute Assets Provision

3. If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- (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,

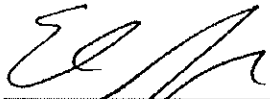
it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(p), as incorporated by 28 U.S.C. § 2461, to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of the forfeitable property described above.

ROBERT FRAZER
United States Attorney



Casey S. Smith
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Approved by:



Elaine K. Lou
Chief, Criminal Division

CASE NUMBER: 26- 210

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INFORMATION FOR

18 U.S.C. § 371

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