

Approved: SL  
STEPHANIE LAKE  
Assistant United States Attorney

Before: THE HONORABLE DEBRA FREEMAN  
United States Magistrate Judge  
Southern District of New York

18 MAG 3674

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : SEALED COMPLAINT  
  
- v. - : Violations of  
21 U.S.C. § 841; 18  
THAYSHIKA TORRES, : U.S.C. § 2.  
a/k/a "Mecca," :  
Defendant. : COUNTY OF OFFENSE:  
BRONX

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ss.:

FRAM ROEKTHANOM, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a Detective with the New York City Police Department ("NYPD"), and charges as follows:

COUNT ONE  
(Narcotics Distribution)

1. From at least in or about September 2016 up to and including at least in or about December 2016, in the Southern District of New York, THAYSHIKA TORRES, a/k/a "Mecca," the defendant, intentionally and knowingly distributed and possessed with intent to distribute a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).

2. The controlled substance involved in the offense was a quantity of mixtures and substances containing detectable amounts of heroin, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(b)(1)(C).

3. The use of such controlled substance resulted in the serious bodily injury of Elizabeth Stephens on or about December 2, 2016 in the Bronx, New York, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(b)(1)(C).

(Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(C); Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.)

COUNT TWO  
(Narcotics Distribution)

4. On or about December 23, 2016, in the Southern District of New York, THAYSHIKA TORRES, a/k/a "Mecca," the defendant, intentionally and knowingly distributed and possessed with intent to distribute a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).

5. The controlled substance involved in the offense was a quantity of mixtures and substances containing detectable amounts of fentanyl, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(b)(1)(C).

6. The use of such controlled substance resulted in the serious bodily injury and death of Elizabeth Stephens on or about December 23, 2016 in the Bronx, New York, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(b)(1)(C).

(Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(C); Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.)

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

7. I am a Detective with the NYPD and I have been personally involved in the investigation of this matter. This affidavit is based upon my personal participation in the investigation of this matter, my conversations with law enforcement agents, witnesses, and others, as well as 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.

The Defendant Sold Heroin in September 2016

8. Based on my review of law enforcement reports and my conversations with other law enforcement officers, I have learned, among other things, the following:

a. On or about May 21, 2016, THAYSHIKA TORRES, a/k/a "Mecca," the defendant, provided a particular phone number (the "Torres Phone Number") to law enforcement as her phone number.

b. TORRES lives in an apartment (the "Torres Apartment") on the 13th floor of a particular apartment building in the Bronx (the "Torres Building").

c. On or about September 2, 2016, TORRES sold a substance that later tested positive for the presence of heroin to an undercover New York City Police Department ("NYPD") law enforcement officer.

9. From speaking with THAYSHIKA TORRES, a/k/a "Mecca," the defendant, I know, among other things, that TORRES lives in the Torres Apartment. I also know that on or about March 8, 2018, TORRES provided the Torres Phone Number to the NYPD as her contact number.

The December 2, 2016 Non-Fatal Overdose

10. Based on my conversations with a witness (the "Witness"), my review of NYPD reports, and my review of Lincoln Hospital Records, I have learned, among other things, the following:

a. On or about December 2, 2016, at approximately 1:30 a.m., the Witness drove Elizabeth Stephens ("the Victim") to the vicinity of the Torres Building. The Witness observed the Victim join a man and a woman who had exited a livery cab and enter the Torres Building.

b. Based on my review of law enforcement reports, I have learned that on or about December 2, 2016, at approximately 2:06 a.m., the Torres Phone Number dialed 911. The user of the Torres Phone Number informed the dispatcher that there was a female in the elevator at the Torres Building who was gasping for air.

c. The Witness subsequently observed an ambulance arrive outside of the Torres Building.

d. Based on my review of Lincoln Hospital Records, I have learned that the Victim was found unresponsive in an elevator at the Torres Building. When Emergency Medical Services ("EMS") personnel arrived, they administered Narcan and the Victim was revived.

e. The Witness observed an individual he believed to be the Victim being brought into the ambulance.

f. The Witness followed the ambulance to Lincoln Hospital, where the Witness waited for the Victim. The Victim informed the Witness that she had overdosed on drugs that she had received from the woman she had been visiting.

g. Based on my review of Lincoln Hospital records, I have learned that on or about December 2, 2016 at approximately 2:33 a.m., the Victim was admitted to Lincoln Hospital for "poisoning by heroin." The Victim also informed hospital personnel that she had used heroin that night.

11. Based on my review of the Victim's cellphone (the "Victim Cellphone"), I have learned, among other things, that on or about December 2, 2016, at approximately 5:33 p.m., following her overdose and hospitalization, the Victim sent a text message to a contact listed as "Mecca New" at the Torres Phone Number. The text message stated "Hi. Hey, let people know that stuff is strong. I have a tolerance even and it's good..... just want to let u know. Hope ur day is good."

#### The December 23, 2016 Fatal Overdose

12. Based on my review of call records between the phone number associated with the Victim Cellphone and the Torres Phone Number, I have learned, among other things, the following:

a. The Victim placed three calls to the Torres Phone Number on or about December 23, 2016 between approximately 10:56 a.m. and 11:57 a.m.

b. The 11:57 a.m. call to the Torres Phone Number was the last outgoing call made from The Victim Cellphone.

13. Based on my review of law enforcement reports, I have learned, among other things, the following:

a. On or about December 23, 2016 at approximately 12:49 p.m., an individual called 911 and stated

that a female was lying on the floor outside of the elevator on the 16th floor of the Torres Building.

b. On or about December 23, 2016 at approximately 1:00 p.m., law enforcement officers located the Victim, who was unresponsive, in the 16th floor hallway of the Torres Building.

14. Based on my review of Lincoln Hospital Records, I have learned, among other things, the following:

a. On or about December 23, 2016 at approximately 1:51 p.m., the Victim was admitted to Lincoln Hospital in cardiac arrest.

b. On or about December 23, 2016 at approximately 1:55 p.m., the Victim was pronounced dead.

15. Based on my review of a report of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of the City of New York, I have learned, among other things, that the Victim died of acute fentanyl intoxication.

The Defendant Continued to Distribute Heroin After  
the Victim's Fatal Overdose

16. Based on my conversations with other law enforcement officers and my review of NYPD reports, I have learned, among other things, the following:

a. On or about October 18, 2017, a cooperating source ("CS-1"),<sup>1</sup> acting at the direction of law enforcement, purchased one glassine of a substance that later tested positive for the presence of heroin and fentanyl from THAYSHIKA TORRES, a/k/a "Mecca," the defendant, at the Torres Apartment.

b. On or about October 24, 2017, CS-1, acting at the direction of law enforcement, purchased two glassines of a substance that later tested positive for the presence of heroin and fentanyl from TORRES at the Torres Apartment.

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<sup>1</sup>CS-1 is a paid informant who has been cooperating with law enforcement since 2017. CS-1's criminal history includes narcotics-related offenses, larceny, and trespass. Some of the information CS-1 has provided has been corroborated by independent evidence and deemed reliable.

17. Based on my involvement in this investigation, including my conversations with a cooperating source ("CS-2"),<sup>2</sup> I have learned, among other things, the following:

a. On or about February 22, 2018, CS-2, acting at the direction of law enforcement, approached THAYSHIKA TORRES, a/k/a "Mecca," the defendant, at the Torres Apartment to purchase heroin. TORRES provided CS-2 with one glassine that later tested positive for the presence of heroin, in exchange for \$20.

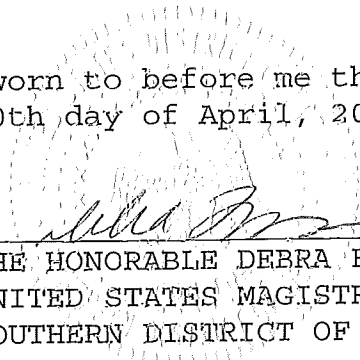
b. On or about February 27, 2018, CS-2, acting at the direction of law enforcement, approached TORRES in the hallway outside of the Torres Apartment to purchase heroin. TORRES provided CS-2 with two glassines that later tested positive for the presence of heroin in exchange for \$20.


WHEREFORE, deponent respectfully requests that a warrant be issued for the arrest of THAYSHIKA TORRES, a/k/a "Mecca," the defendant, and that she be arrested and imprisoned or bailed, as the case may be.



FRAM ROEKTHANOM  
Detective  
New York City Police Department

Sworn to before me this  
30th day of April, 2018



  
THE HONORABLE DEBRA FREEMAN  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

<sup>2</sup>CS-2 is a paid informant who has been cooperating with law enforcement since 2014. CS-2's criminal history includes narcotics-related offenses. Some of the information CS-2 has provided has been corroborated by independent evidence and deemed reliable.