

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	CRIMINAL NO. 13-
v.	:	DATE FILED:
NICKOLAE SAVVA	:	VIOLATIONS:
	:	18 U.S.C. § 1349 (conspiracy to commit wire fraud – 1 count)
	:	18 U.S.C. § 1546(a) (possession of a fraudulent passport – 1 count)
		Notice of Forfeiture

INFORMATION

COUNT ONE

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES THAT:

Beginning on or about March 1, 2013 and continuing until on or about May 4, 2013, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and elsewhere, defendant

NIKOLAE SAVVA

conspired and agreed, with others unknown to the United States Attorney, to execute a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money by false and fraudulent pretenses, and in the course of the execution of this scheme a conspirator would cause the transmission of wire communications in interstate and foreign commerce for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

MANNER AND MEANS

It was part of the conspiracy that:

1. Defendant NIKOLAE SAVVA used false passports supplied by other conspirators to open bank accounts in the United States for the purpose of receiving funds obtained

by fraudulent pretenses involving false advertisements on the internet of used vehicles for sale.

2. Conspirators outside the United States caused advertisements for used vehicles to be placed on internet websites. These advertisements were fraudulent in that none of the conspirators had these used vehicles to sell, and the conspirators placed these false advertisements solely for the purpose of attracting prospective buyers in the United States and elsewhere, and for obtaining money from these prospective buyers.

3. Conspirators outside the United States responded to inquiries from prospective buyers in the United States and elsewhere for these fraudulently advertised used vehicles using email, and used email messages to encourage the prospective buyers to commit to purchasing the fraudulently advertised vehicles.

4. Conspirators outside the United States, using email, directed buyers who decided to purchase fraudulently advertised used vehicles to send funds by wire transfers to bank accounts which had been opened by defendant NIKOLAE SAVVA in false names.

5. After a buyer wired funds to such a bank account, defendant NIKOLAE SAVVA immediately withdrew the funds and sent most of the money by a money transfer service such as Western Union to conspirators outside the United States, and the buyer was not able to recover the funds she sent after she discovered that the offer to sell the vehicle was fraudulent.

OVERT ACTS

In furtherance of the conspiracy, the defendant and others unknown to the United States Attorney committed the following overt acts in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere:

1. On or about March 3, 2013, defendant NIKOLAE SAVVA traveled from

Budapest, Hungary to the United States and arrived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

2. On or about March 4, 2013, defendant NIKOLAE SAVVA opened a private mailbox at a UPS Store on North Third Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

3. On or about March 4, 2013, coconspirators sent a Slovakian passport in the name of Martin Phillip to defendant NIKOLAE SAVVA at the UPS mailbox which SAVVA had opened on March 4, 2013. This passport was fraudulent in that it had the photograph of SAVVA as Martin Phillip.

4. On or about March 26, 2013, conspirators contacted victim H.M. using email messages offering him a "second chance" to purchase a used vehicle. H.M. had previously expressed interest in purchasing this used vehicle, a Mercedes-Benz M-Class ML320 Blue TEC, which had been advertised for sale on an internet auction site but H.M. was not the winning bidder.

5. On or about April 4, 2013, defendant NIKOLAE SAVVA used a false Slovakian passport in the name of Martin Phillip to open a private mailbox at a UPS Store on North 13th Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

6. On or about April 5, 2013, defendant NIKOLAE SAVVA used the false Slovakian passport in the name of Martin Phillip to open a bank account at a Bank of America branch in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and used the address of the North 13th Street UPS store as his address for purposes of opening this account.

7. On or about April 5, 2013, coconspirators directed victim H.M. to send by wire transfer \$23,000 for the purchase of the used vehicle, a Mercedes-Benz M-Class ML320 Blue TEC, to the Bank of America account which defendant NIKOLAE SAVVA had opened on April 5, 2013. Victim H.M. declined to send the funds.

8. On or about April 9, 2013, defendant NIKOLAE SAVVA used a false passport in the name of Victor Branick to open a bank account at a Bank of America branch in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and used the address of a UPS store on Ridge Avenue as his address for purposes of opening this account.

9. On or about April 13, 2013, coconspirators directed another coconspirator to send \$4,620 of funds involved in this scheme to a Bank of America account opened by defendant NIKOLAE SAVVA in the name of Victor Branick, and the conspirator did cause those funds to be transferred.

10. On or about April 16, 2013, defendant NIKOLAE SAVVA used a false Slovakian passport in the name of Vincent Batley to open a private mailbox at a UPS Store on South Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

11. On or about April 17, 2013, defendant NIKOLAE SAVVA used a false Slovakian passport in the name of Vincent Batley to open a bank account at a Bank of America branch in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and used the address of the South Street UPS store as his address for purposes of opening this account.

12. On or about April 17, 2013, conspirators contacted victim D.R. who had expressed interest in purchasing a used vehicle, a Toy Hauler Travel Trailer, which the conspirators had fraudulently advertised for sale on the internet.

13. On or about April 18, 2013, coconspirators sent an email message directing victim D.R. to send by wire transfer \$6,800 for the purchase of the used vehicle, the Toy Hauler Travel Trailer, to the Bank of America account which defendant NIKOLAE SAVVA had opened on April 17, 2013 in the name of Vincent Batley. Victim D.R. did wire the funds to this account.

14. On or about April 19, 2013, defendant NIKOLAE SAVVA withdrew \$6,000 in cash making a teller cash withdrawal from the Bank of America account he had opened on April 17, 2013.

15. On or about April 19, 2013, defendant NIKOLAE SAVVA withdrew \$500 in cash using two ATM withdrawals from the Bank of America account he had opened on April 17, 2013.

16. On or about April 20, 2013, defendant NIKOLAE SAVVA wired funds from the above bank withdrawals to an individual in Hungary, at the direction of conspirators.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.

COUNT TWO

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:

On or about April 4, 2013, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, defendant

NIKOLAE SAVVA

knowingly used and possessed a document prescribed by statute and regulation for entry into or as evidence of authorized stay in the United States, that is, a Slovakian passport number SK1698334 bearing the name of Martin Phillip, knowing it to be forged, counterfeited, altered and falsely made.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1546(a).

NOTICE OF FORFEITURE

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:

1. As a result of the violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349, set forth in this information, defendant

NIKOLAE SAVVA

shall forfeit to the United States of America any property that constitutes, or is derived from, proceeds traceable to the commission of such offense(s), including, but not limited to, the sum of \$11,420, and:

funds in Bank of America account 3830 1188 9115 up to \$4,620
funds in Bank of America account 3830 1194 0795 up to \$6,800

2. If any of the property subject to forfeiture, 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 party;
- (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 divided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), incorporating Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of the property subject to forfeiture.

All pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), and Title 28,
United States Code, Section 2461(c).



ZANE DAVID MEMEGER
United States Attorney