

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. 22-20326-CR-KMM

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

ANDRE LORQUET

Defendant.

_____ /

**DEFENDANT'S REPLY TO GOVERNMENT'S
RESPONSE MOTION TO WITHDRAW GUILTY PLEA**

Defendant, Andre Lorquet, replies to the government's response to his motion withdraw his guilty plea (ECF 89). Citing the transcript from Mr. Lorquet's guilty plea, the government argues that Mr. Lorquet knowingly and voluntarily pled guilty with the close of assistance of counsel. While they may have been physically next to each other during the plea hearing, Mr. Lorquet did not have the *close* assistance of counsel. To the contrary, he avers that his counsel refused to accept his instructions that he did not wish to plead guilty and instead pressured him to plead guilty and made him feel as if he had no choice. While Mr. Lorquet went through the motions of pleading guilty, he avers that he did so only because he felt he had no choice.

The government also cites select calls between Mr. Lorquet and his mother and another person to argue that Mr. Lorquet was not pressured or under duress when pleading guilty. Those conversations, which show only some of Mr. Lorquet's

thinking, in part, support Mr. Lorquet in that he repeatedly stated that he wants to go to trial. Finally, the government argues it is prejudiced by allowing the plea to be vacating and permitting Mr. Lorquet to proceed to trial. While it may indeed be inconvenient, as stated in Mr. Lorquet's motion, due process, the Sixth Amendment, and trials are, by definition, inconvenient.

For the above stated reasons and the reason averred in Mr. Lorquet's motion, he respectfully requests that the Court grant his motion to withdraw his guilty plea.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that, on October 16, 2023, a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished electronically via CMCEF to all counsel of record.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL ROSQUETE REYES ESTEBAN, PLLC

Henry P. Bell

Fla. Bar No. 090689

999 Ponce De Leon Blvd.

Suite 810

Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Telephone: (305) 570-1610

Facsimile: (305) 570-1599

Email: hbell@bresq.com

Counsel to Andre Lorquet

By: s/Henry P. Bell
Henry P. Bel

CC: Andre Lorquet – FDC Miami