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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF UTAH

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MUBARAK SULAIMAN UKASHAT,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:23-cr-00111-HCN

STATEMENT BY DEFENDANT IN
ADVANCE OF PLEA OF GUILTY
AND PLEA AGREEMENT PURSUANT
TO FED. R. CRIM. P. 11(c)(1)(C)

Judge Howard C. Nielson, Jr.

I hereby acknowledge and certify that I have been advised of and that I understand the following facts and rights, and that I have had the assistance of counsel in reviewing, explaining, and entering into this agreement:

1. As part of this agreement with the United States of America ("United States"), I intend to plead guilty to Count 1 of the Felony Information. My attorney has explained the nature of the charges against me, and I have had an opportunity to discuss the nature of the charges with my attorney. I understand the charges and what the United States is required to prove in order to convict me.

The elements of Count 1, *Failure to File Currency and Other Monetary Instruments Reports* (31 U.S.C. § 5324(c)(1)), are:

First: The defendant transported currency in an amount of more than \$10,000 at one time, from a place in the United States to a place outside the United States;

Second: The defendant failed to file a Currency and Monetary Instruments Report, as required by 31 U.S.C. § 5316 and the accompanying regulations; and

Third: The defendant did so for the purpose of evading the reporting requirements of 31 U.S.C. § 5316 and the accompanying regulations.

2. I know that the maximum possible penalty provided by law for Count 1 of the Felony Information, a violation of 31 U.S.C. § 5324(c)(1), is a term of imprisonment of ten (10) years, a fine of \$500,000, a term of supervised release of three (3) years, and any applicable forfeiture. I understand that if I violate a term or condition of supervised release, I can be returned to prison for the length of time provided in 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e)(3).

a. Additionally, I know the Court is required to impose an assessment in the amount of \$100 for each offense of conviction, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013. Furthermore, restitution to the victim of my offense may be ordered pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663A.

b. I understand that, if I am not a United States citizen, I may be removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied admission to the United States in the future.

3. I know that the sentencing procedures in this case and the ultimate sentence will be determined pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), and that the Court must consider, but is not bound by, the United States Sentencing Guidelines, in determining my sentence. I have discussed these procedures with my attorney. I also know that the final calculation of my sentence by the Court may differ from any calculation the United States, my attorney, or I may have made, and I will not be able to withdraw my plea if this occurs. However, because my plea of guilty is being entered pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(C), as explained below, I know that I will be able to withdraw my plea if the Court does not accept the terms of this agreement.

4. I know that I can be represented by an attorney at every stage of the proceeding, and I know that if I cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed to represent me.

5. I know that I have a right to plead "Not Guilty" or maintain my earlier plea of "Not Guilty" and can have a trial on the charges against me.

6. I know that I have a right to a trial by jury, and I know that if I stand trial by a jury:

a. I have a right to the assistance of counsel at every stage of the proceeding.

b. I have a right to see and observe the witnesses who testify against me.

c. My attorney can cross-examine all witnesses who testify against me.

d. I can call witnesses to testify at trial, and I can obtain subpoenas to require the attendance and testimony of those witnesses. If I cannot afford to pay for the appearance of a witness and mileage fees, the United States will pay them.

e. I cannot be forced to incriminate myself, and I do not have to testify at any trial.

f. If I do not want to testify, the jury will be told that no inference adverse to me may be drawn from my election not to testify.

g. The United States must prove each and every element of the offense charged against me beyond a reasonable doubt.

h. It requires a unanimous verdict of a jury to convict me.

i. If I were to be convicted, I could appeal, and if I could not afford to appeal, the United States would pay the costs of the appeal, including the services of appointed counsel.

7. If I plead guilty, I will not have a trial of any kind.

8. I know that 18 U.S.C. § 3742(c)(1) sets forth the circumstances under which I may appeal my sentence. However, fully understanding my right to appeal my sentence, and in consideration of the concessions and/or commitments made by the United States in this plea agreement, I knowingly, voluntarily, and expressly waive my right to appeal as set forth in paragraph 12 below.

9. I know that, under 18 U.S.C. § 3742(c)(2), the United States may only appeal my sentence if it is less than the sentence set forth in this agreement.

10. I know that under a plea of guilty the judge may ask me questions under oath about the offense. The questions, if asked on the record and in the presence of counsel, must be answered truthfully and, if I give false answers, I can be prosecuted for perjury.

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11. I stipulate and agree that the following facts accurately describe my conduct. These facts provide a basis for the Court to accept my guilty plea:

Count 1 – Failure to File Currency and Other Monetary Instruments Reports

From on or about May 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, in the District of Utah and elsewhere, I, Mubarak Sulaiman Ukashat, knowingly transported or caused to be transported at least \$101,000 in United States currency in increments exceeding \$10,000, from a place in the United States to a place outside the United States, including to Nigeria and Dubai.

In doing so, on multiple occasions, I transported to places outside of the United States more than \$10,000 at one time for the purposes of evading the reporting requirements of 31 U.S.C. § 5316 (which I understood required anyone who transported more than \$10,000 in United States currency to a place outside the United States to file a report with the United States Treasury), and I failed to file the required reports.

I admit that my conduct violated 31 U.S.C. § 5324(c)(1) and constituted the crime of structuring transactions to evade reporting requirements.

12. The only terms and conditions pertaining to this plea agreement between the United States and me are as follows:

a. **Guilty Plea.** I will plead guilty to Count 1 of the Felony Information.

b. **Stipulated Sentence.** Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(C) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the sentence imposed by the Court will be a range of **12 to 36 months in prison**, restitution in the amount of \$392,827, and forfeiture as set forth in paragraph 12.h. herein. I agree this is a reasonable sentence.

(1) I understand that this agreement, including my plea, the agreed upon sentence, and all other terms referenced herein, are subject to the approval of, and acceptance by the Court. I further understand that the Court will likely order the preparation of a Presentence Report to assist in the determination of whether this plea and the agreement are appropriate, and I agree to fully cooperate in the preparation of the Presentence Report.

(2) If, after receiving all relevant information, the Court rejects the plea agreement and determines that a sentence different from the agreed upon sentence of 12 to

36 months of prison, will be imposed, I will have the right to withdraw the plea of guilty and the terms of this agreement will become null and void. Likewise, if the Court rejects the plea agreement and determines that the sentence should be less than 12 months of imprisonment, I understand that the United States will have the right to move to vacate this agreement, and all terms of this agreement will become null and void.

c. **Dismissal of Counts.** At the time of sentencing, the United States agrees to move for leave to dismiss Counts 1-8 of the Indictment. The United States also agrees not to seek indictment against me for any other specific offenses of which the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Utah is aware at this time.

d. **Relevant Conduct.** I understand and agree that the Presentence Report may include descriptions of conduct I engaged in which either was not charged against me, will not be pleaded to by me, or both. I understand and agree that the Court will take these facts into consideration in determining the reasonableness of the stipulated sentence.

e. **Appeal Waiver.**

(1) Fully understanding my limited right to appeal my sentence, as explained above in paragraph 8, and in consideration of the concessions and/or commitments made by the United States in this plea agreement, I knowingly, voluntarily, and expressly waive my right to appeal any sentence imposed upon me, except that I do not waive the right to appeal as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742(c)(1), which states that I may not file a notice of appeal unless the sentence imposed is greater than the sentence set forth in this agreement. I also knowingly, voluntarily, and expressly waive any argument (1) that the statute(s) to which I am pleading guilty is/are unconstitutional or (2) that my admitted conduct does not fall within the scope of the statute(s).

(2) I also knowingly, voluntarily, and expressly waive my right to challenge my sentence, unless the sentence imposed is greater than the sentence set forth in this agreement, and my conviction, in any collateral review motion, writ or other procedure, including but not limited to a motion brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, except on the issue of ineffective assistance of counsel. This waiver includes any motion for modification of my sentence under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2).

(3) I understand that this waiver of my appeal and collateral review rights concerning my sentence shall not affect the United States' right to appeal my sentence pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3742(c)(2) and § 3742(b)(1) and (2).

(4) I further understand and agree that the word "sentence" appearing throughout this waiver provision is being used broadly and applies to all aspects of the Court's sentencing authority, including, but not limited to: (1) sentencing determinations;

(2) the imposition of imprisonment, fines, supervised release, probation, and any specific terms and conditions thereof; and (3) any orders of restitution.

(5) Additionally, I waive all rights to appeal any issues regarding my right to presence and the validity of my remote appearance for this and any other hearings held in this matter.

f. **Presentence Report and Financial Information.** I agree to provide truthful and complete information, including financial information, as requested by the probation office for the preparation of my presentence report and for determination of the conditions of my supervised release. I also consent to allowing the United States Attorney's Office to run a credit check on me. I consent to being placed on the Treasury Offset Program and State Finder.

g. **Restitution.**

(1) I understand that the United States will request and that the Court may order that I pay restitution. I also agree to pay restitution to victims of unpleaded or uncharged relevant conduct pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663(a)(3).

Under 18 U.S.C. § 3663(a)(3) I agree to pay restitution, in the amount of \$392,827, to the following victims as follows:

- \$333,900 to the United States Small Business Administration;
- \$19,840 to the Washington State Employment Security Department;
- \$6,720 to the State of Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency;
and
- \$32,367 to the Arizona Department of Economic Security.

(2) I understand that the amount of restitution and the schedule of payments will be determined as a part of the sentencing proceedings in accordance with the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 3664. I agree to pay all restitution as ordered by the Court. I agree that the payment and enforcement of my restitution order is governed by 18 U.S.C. § 3664, and my lawyer has explained the consequences of an order of restitution.

(3) I understand and agree that payment of any restitution owed, pursuant to the schedule set by the Court at sentencing, should be a condition of any term of probation or supervised release imposed upon me. I know that if I fail to pay restitution as ordered, the failure can be considered a violation of probation or supervised release and,

pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3614, the Court can resentence me to any sentence which might originally have been imposed in my case.

h. Forfeiture.

(1) I agree to the entry of a forfeiture money judgment of \$101,000. This amount is the value of property that facilitated, was involved in, or that I obtained from my offense that is not available for forfeiture because of my acts or omissions. I agree that such property 1) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; 2) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party; 3) has been placed beyond the court's jurisdiction; or 4) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty as provided under 21 U.S.C. § 853(p).

(2) The defendant understands that, by law, forfeiture is mandatory in this case. The defendant understands that the United States will not pursue satisfaction of the forfeiture money judgment provided that the defendant makes payments, as required by the Court, on his restitution order. The defendant further understands that, if the defendant pays off all of the restitution ordered by the Court, then the United States agrees to forgo enforcement or satisfaction of the forfeiture money judgment. The defendant further understands that, if the defendant fails to pay restitution as required by the Court, then the United States is free to pursue satisfaction of the forfeiture money judgment.

(3) The U.S. Attorney's Office agrees to recommend to the United States Department of Justice through the restoration process that property recovered to satisfy the forfeiture money judgment be applied to reduce the amount the defendant owes on the restitution order. Upon approval of the restoration request, recoveries made on the forfeiture money judgment will also satisfy the restitution order to the extent of such recoveries. The defendant may make payments on the forfeiture money judgment by cashier's check or money order to "United States Marshals Service," referencing the case number, and mailed to: United States Marshals Service, ATTN: Asset Forfeiture Coordinator, 333 Lomas Blvd NW Suite 180, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102.

(4) I waive any claims I may have against the government, its officers, employees, and agents regarding the forfeiture.

(5) I waive the requirements regarding notice of the forfeiture in the charging instrument, announcement of the forfeiture at sentencing, and incorporation of the forfeiture in the judgment.

(6) I waive any constitutional or statutory challenges to the forfeiture covered by this agreement, including that the forfeiture is an excessive fine or punishment.

13. I understand and agree that this plea agreement is solely between me and the United States Attorney for the District of Utah and does not bind any other federal, state, or local prosecuting, administrative, or regulatory authorities.

14. I understand that I have a right to ask the Court any questions I wish to ask concerning my rights about these proceedings and the plea.

* * * *

I make the following representations to the Court:

1. I am 37 years of age. My education consists of ^{Phd degree} ~~some college~~. I can read and understand English.

2. This Statement in Advance contains all terms of the agreement between me and the United States; if there are exceptions, the Court will be specifically advised, on the record, at the time of my guilty plea of the additional terms. I understand the United States and I cannot have terms of this plea agreement that are not disclosed to the Court.

3. No one has made threats, promises, or representations to me that have caused me to plead guilty, other than the provisions set forth in this agreement.

4. Neither my attorney nor the United States has promised me that I would receive probation or any other form of leniency because of my plea.

5. I have discussed this case and this plea with my lawyers as much as I wish, and I have no additional questions.

6. I am satisfied with my lawyers.

7. My decision to enter this plea was made after full and careful thought; with the advice of counsel; and with a full understanding of my rights, the facts and circumstances of the case and the consequences of the plea. I was not under the influence of any drugs, medication, or intoxicants when I made the decision to enter the plea, and I am not now under the influence of any drugs, medication, or intoxicants.

8. I have no mental reservations concerning the plea.

9. I understand and agree to all of the above. I know that I am free to change or delete anything contained in this statement. I do not wish to make changes to this agreement because I agree with the terms and all of the statements are correct.

DATED this 6th day of February, 2025.



MUBARAK SULAIMAN UKASHAT
Defendant

I certify that I have discussed this plea agreement with the defendant, that I have fully explained his rights to him, and that I have assisted him in completing this written agreement. I believe that he is knowingly and voluntarily entering the plea with full knowledge of his legal rights and that there is a factual basis for the plea.

DATED this 6th day of February, 2025.



KRISTEN R. ANGELOS *Nathan Phelps*
Attorney for Defendant

I represent that all terms of the plea agreement between the defendant and the United States have been, or will be at the plea hearing, disclosed to the Court, and there are no undisclosed agreements between the defendant and the United States.

DATED this 6th day of February, 2025.

TRINA A. HIGGINS
United States Attorney



TODD C. BOUTON
Assistant United States Attorney