

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

Case No. 1:21-cr-13-AW-GRJ

JEREMIE SAINTVIL,

Defendant.

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR JUDGMENT OF ACQUITTAL

A jury convicted Jeremie SaintVil on all counts. He has now filed a pro se motion for judgment of acquittal. ECF No. 118. This order denies that motion.

The question here is “whether the evidence, examined in a light most favorable to the Government, was sufficient to support the jury’s conclusion that the defendant was guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.” *United States v. Greer*, 850 F.2d 1447, 1450 (11th Cir. 1988) (quoting *United States v. Varkonyi*, 611 F.2d 84, 85-86 (5th Cir. 1980)). Here, the evidence of SaintVil’s guilt was overwhelming; it was far greater than what was necessary to preclude a judgment of acquittal.

SaintVil seems to argue that another (uncharged) person—Krista Peterson—also committed crimes. But even if that is so, that does not undermine the sufficiency of evidence as to him. SaintVil also questions the thoroughness of the investigation, pointing out other steps investigators could have taken. But again, the evidence investigators did find—and that the government presented to the jury—was sufficient.

SaintVil also notes that he testified that he was in fear of Ms. Peterson. Although it is not entirely clear, it appears he argues that this means he acted involuntarily. The jury, of course, could disbelieve his testimony, and there was ample evidence that he acted knowingly and willfully.

Among other evidence, the jury heard:

- SaintVil was alone in his home when it was searched, moments after a fraudulent email was sent from his computer, and with a fraudulent identification document on his scanner.
- Numerous emails relating to fraudulent loan applications came from an IP address associated with SaintVil's home.
- SaintVil's computer contained many files related to the fraudulent scheme.
- An FBI agent found a bag hidden in SaintVil's home containing SaintVil's business card and several fraudulent credit cards and identification documents in the names of the elderly victims.
- SaintVil visited storefronts, identified himself using the name of an elderly victim, and picked up bank-related mail addressed to elderly victims.
- A recording of a telephone conversation between a bank representative and someone purporting to be a loan applicant—someone who used the name of one of the elderly victims but who had SaintVil's voice, cadence, and manner of speech.
- Bank records showing transactions on the fraudulent cards in places that travel records showed SaintVil was visiting at the time of the transactions.
- Money transfers to accounts SaintVil controlled that represented proceeds of the fraud.

- SaintVil's living an extravagant lifestyle consistent with the receipt of large sums of money.

This is not an exhaustive list. In short, there was ample evidence to support the convictions.

Finally, SaintVil's motion takes issue with the way the government characterized the evidence, presumably referring to its closing argument. But that has no bearing on a motion for judgment of acquittal. The issue is only whether there was sufficient evidence, and there was.

The motion (ECF No. 118) is DENIED.

SO ORDERED on October 29, 2021.

s/ Allen Winsor

United States District Judge