

JUDGE CANTER

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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	:	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	<u>SEALED INDICTMENT</u>
	:	
- v. -	:	20 Cr.
	:	
ABDURAMAN ISENI,	:	
a/k/a "Diamond,"	:	
ERVIN MAKISHTI,	:	
a/k/a "Vinny,"	:	
SOKOL GJONI,	:	
MIRALEM LJULJANOVIC,	:	
JETMIR SULAJ,	:	
ELDI MAKISHTI,	:	
ENRI DIMO,	:	
a/k/a "Eni,"	:	
DARREN DANZIERI,	:	
ISLAM LAMCE,	:	
a/k/a "Bachi,"	:	
BRAJAN TOLA,	:	
GAZMEND LITA,	:	
SMAIL DJOKIC,	:	
a/k/a "Ismail Gjoka,"	:	
AMIR BECOVIC,	:	
RAFAEL JACOBS,	:	
BESIM KUKAJ, and	:	
MELSA SKRAPALLIU,	:	
	:	
Defendants.	:	
	X	

20 CRIM 660

COUNT ONE

(Racketeering Conspiracy)

The Grand Jury charges:

THE DIAMOND ENTERPRISE

1. At all times relevant to this Indictment, ABDURAMAN ISENI, a/k/a "Diamond," ERVIN MAKISHTI, a/k/a "Vinny," SOKOL GJONI, MIRALEM LJULJANOVIC, and JETMIR SULAJ, the defendants,

and others known and unknown, were members and associates of the "Diamond Enterprise." The Diamond Enterprise was an organized criminal group operating under the direction and protection of ISENI, who had substantial influence in the criminal underworld and offered assistance to and support of the members and associates of the Diamond Enterprise. Those members and associates, and ISENI himself, engaged in long-running criminal activity in support of the Diamond Enterprise, including through the operation of illegal gambling businesses, the transmission of wagering information on sporting events in interstate and foreign commerce, and money laundering.

2. The Diamond Enterprise, including its leadership, membership, and associates, constituted an "enterprise" as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1961(4), that is, a group of individuals associated in fact, although not a legal entity (the "Enterprise"). This Enterprise was engaged in, and its activities affected, interstate and foreign commerce. The Diamond Enterprise was an organized criminal group based in New York City that operated in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere and constituted an ongoing organization whose members functioned as a continuing unit for a common purpose of achieving the objectives of the Enterprise.

3. ABDURAMAN ISENI, a/k/a "Diamond," the defendant, was

at the center of the Diamond Enterprise. ISENI oversaw the Diamond Enterprise's illegal gambling activities. Among other illegal gambling operations, ISENI oversaw the Diamond Enterprise's operation of illegal gambling occurring at three facilities in Brooklyn: "Sports Café," "Friendly Café," and "Oasis Café." ERVIN MAKISHTI, a/k/a "Vinny," and SOKOL GJONI, the defendants, had day-to-day responsibilities managing Sports Café, from in or about 2015 up to and including at least in or about December 2019. MIRALEM LJULJANOVIC, the defendant, had day-to-day responsibilities managing Friendly Café from in or about 2018 up to and including at least in or about February 2020. JETMIR SULAJ, the defendant, had day-to-day responsibilities managing Oasis Café from in or about 2018 up to and including at least in or about February 2020. Sports Café and Friendly Café were the site of both illegal gambling operations and the transmission of wagering information in interstate and foreign commerce.

PURPOSES OF THE ENTERPRISE

4. The purposes of the Diamond Enterprise included the following:

a. Enriching the members and associates of the Diamond Enterprise through, among other things, (i) the operation of illegal gambling businesses; (ii) transmission of wagering information; and (iii) money laundering;

b. Promoting and enhancing the Diamond Enterprise and the activities of its members and associates.

MEANS AND METHODS OF THE ENTERPRISE

5. Among the means and methods employed by the members and associates in conducting and participating in the conduct of the Diamond Enterprise were the following:

a. Members and associates of the Diamond Enterprise generated income for the Diamond Enterprise through, among other things (i) the operation of illegal gambling businesses, including through the collection of gambling debts owed to the Diamond Enterprise; (ii) transmission of wagering information; and (iii) money laundering.

b. Members and associates of the Diamond Enterprise engaged in criminal conduct and coordinated their criminal activities with leaders, members, and associates of other criminal associations.

c. Members and associates of the Diamond Enterprise used various techniques to avoid law enforcement scrutiny of the Diamond Enterprise's criminal activities. Members and associates of the Diamond Enterprise sometimes used coded language to refer to gambling equipment. Members and associates of the Diamond Enterprise also attempted to thwart potential law enforcement eavesdropping by engaging in "in-person" meetings to discuss criminal activities and by stating that certain conversations

should be conducted in person, and not by telephone.

THE RACKETEERING CONSPIRACY

6. From at least in or about 2017, up to and including the date of the filing of this Indictment, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ABDURAMAN ISENI, a/k/a "Diamond," ERVIN MAKISHTI, a/k/a "Vinny," SOKOL GJONI, MIRALEM LJULJANOVIC, and JETMIR SULAJ, the defendants, and others known and unknown, being persons employed by and associated with the Enterprise described above, namely, the Diamond Enterprise, which was engaged in, and the activities of which affected, interstate and foreign commerce, willfully and knowingly combined, conspired, confederated, and agreed together and with each other to violate the racketeering laws of the United States, to wit, Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962(c), that is, to conduct and participate, directly and indirectly, in the conduct of the affairs of the Diamond Enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1961(1) and 1961(5), consisting of multiple:

a. Acts involving gambling, in violation of New York State Penal Law, Section 225.10;

b. Acts indictable under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1955 (relating to the prohibition of illegal gambling businesses);

c. Acts indictable under Title 18, United States Code,

Section 1084 (transmission of wagering information);

d. Acts indictable under Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956 and 1957 (money laundering and engaging in monetary transactions with criminal proceeds).

7. It was a part of the conspiracy that each defendant agreed that a conspirator would commit at least two acts of racketeering in the conduct of the affairs of the Enterprise.

Overt Acts

8. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the illegal object thereof, the following overt acts, among others, were committed in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere:

a. On or about February 14, 2020, ABDURAMAN ISENI, a/k/a "Diamond," the defendant, told SOKOL GJONI, the defendant, that ISENI had arranged for two gambling machines to be replaced at Sports Café.

b. From in or about 2018 up to and including at least in or about 2019, on an approximately monthly basis, SOKOL GJONI and ERVIN MAKISHTI, a/k/a "Vinny," the defendants, paid ABDURAMAN ISENI, a/k/a "Diamond," the defendant, a portion of the proceeds of the gambling operation of Sports Café.

c. From in or about 2018 up to and including at least in or about 2019, on an approximately monthly basis, MIRALEM LJULJANOVIC, the defendant, paid ABDURAMAN ISENI, a/k/a "Diamond," the defendant, a portion of the proceeds of the gambling operation

of Friendly Café.

d. From in or about 2018 up to and including at least in or about 2019, on an approximately monthly basis, JETMIR SULAJ, the defendant, paid ABDURAMAN ISENI, a/k/a "Diamond," the defendant, a portion of the proceeds of the gambling operation of Oasis Café.

e. On or about at least October 3 and November 9, 2018, ERVIN MAKISHTI, a/k/a "Vinny," and SOKOL GJONI, the defendants, exchanged messages regarding the operating debts of Sports Café's gambling business, including paying ABDURAMAN ISENI, a/k/a "Diamond," the defendant, for his role overseeing the gambling establishment.

f. On or about July 12, 2019, while in Manhattan, ERVIN MAKISHTI, a/k/a "Vinny," the defendant, directed a gambler to pay a gambling debt to Brajan Tola, a defendant named in Count Three of this Indictment.

g. From in or about 2017 to at least in or about August 2019, ERVIN MAKISHTI, a/k/a "Vinny," and SOKOL GJONI, the defendants, instructed two co-conspirators ("CC-1" and "CC-2") to deposit the proceeds of illegal gambling in bank accounts, which were used to pay for expenses of Sports Café.

h. On or about December 11 and December 12, 2019, ABDURAMAN ISENI, a/k/a "Diamond," the defendant, directed ERVIN MAKISHTI, a/k/a "Vinny," the defendant, to provide ISENI with

