

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

EUGENE O. KORANTENG

Crim. No.

18 U.S.C. § 1349

18 U.S.C. § 1956(h)

INFORMATION

The defendant, having waived in open court prosecution by Indictment, the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey charges:

COUNT ONE  
(Conspiracy to Commit Bank Fraud)

People and Entities

1. At all times relevant to this Information:
  - a. Defendant EUGENE O. KORANTENG was a resident of Maple Shade, New Jersey.
  - b. Misty Sarfo-Adu, who was a co-conspirator but not named as a defendant herein and charged elsewhere, was a resident of Deptford, New Jersey.
  - c. Emmanuel S. Yirenkyi, who was a co-conspirator but not named as a defendant herein and charged elsewhere, was a resident of Maple Shade, New Jersey.
  - d. Credit Card Company 1 issued branded credit cards that cardholders could use to purchase goods and services. Cardholders could also use their accounts to write checks to obtain cash advances and transfer balances from other credit cards.

e. Bank 1 and Credit Union 1 were financial institutions whose accounts were insured by, respectively, the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund, Title 18, United States Code, Section 20.

The Bank Fraud Conspiracy

2. From in or around May 2018 through in or around July 2019, in Camden County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, defendant

EUGENE O. KORANTENG

did knowingly and intentionally conspire and agree with Misty Sarfo-Adu, Emmanuel S. Yirenkyi, and others, known and unknown, to execute and attempt to execute a scheme and artifice to defraud a financial institution and to obtain any of the moneys, funds, credits, assets, securities, and other property owned by, and under the custody and control of, such financial institution, by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344.

The Object of the Conspiracy

3. It was the object of the conspiracy to obtain money from financial institutions by acquiring blank checks containing the names and account information of unsuspecting customers of Credit Card Company 1, making the checks payable to members of the conspiracy, forging the customers' signatures on the checks, and negotiating the checks at financial institutions.

Manner and Means of the Conspiracy

4. It was part of the conspiracy that Emmanuel S. Yirenkyi, Misty Sarfo-Adu, and others caused blank cash advance and balance transfer checks, which listed Credit Card Company 1's customers as the checks' payors, to be sent to residential addresses in New Jersey and elsewhere without the knowledge or authorization of the listed payors.

5. It was further part of the conspiracy that Emmanuel S. Yirenkyi, Misty Sarfo-Adu,

and others caused these cash advance and balance transfer checks to be made payable to defendant EUGENE O. KORANTENG and others who agreed to serve as the payees of the checks, which were purportedly signed by the payors of the checks even though the listed payors had no knowledge of and never authorized the checks.

6. It was further part of the conspiracy that defendant EUGENE O. KORANTENG and other payees negotiated at least 17 fraudulent checks totaling approximately \$129,420 at financial institutions in New Jersey and elsewhere, including Bank 1 and Credit Union 1, with the payee keeping a portion of the proceeds and sending the remainder of the proceeds to Emmanuel S. Yirenkyi, Misty Sarfo-Adu, and other members of the conspiracy.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.

COUNT TWO

(Conspiracy to Commit Concealment Money Laundering)

1. Paragraph 1.a. of Count One of this Information is realleged as if set forth in full herein.

The Concealment Money Laundering Conspiracy

2. From in or about March 2019 through on or about June 25, 2019, in Camden and Burlington Counties, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendant

EUGENE O. KORANTENG

did knowingly conspire and agree with others to conduct and attempt to conduct financial transactions affecting interstate and foreign commerce, which transactions involved the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, that is, wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, and bank fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344, knowing that the transactions were designed in whole or in part to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, and control of the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, and that while conducting and attempting to conduct such financial transactions, knew that the property involved in the financial transactions represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(B)(i).

Manner and Means of the Concealment Money Laundering Conspiracy

3. It was part of the conspiracy that members of the conspiracy used counterfeit and fictitious identification documents to open bank accounts in the names of entities that purported to be functioning businesses but, in fact, engaged in no legitimate business. For example, on or about March 5, 2019, an individual using a counterfeit driver's license in the name of an individual with initials "V.H." opened a Wells Fargo business bank account in the name of "Everlasting Hardware Inc."

4. It was further part of the conspiracy that members of the conspiracy caused the deposit into these business bank accounts of fraudulent checks and other funds obtained through fraud. For example, on or about March 22, 2019, Everlasting Hardware Inc.'s Wells Fargo account received an incoming \$86,600 wire transfer of funds obtained through fraud.

5. It was further part of the conspiracy that defendant EUGENE O. KORANTENG and other members of the conspiracy agreed to negotiate checks written from these business bank accounts, knowing that the checks constituted proceeds of unlawful activity. For example, on or about March 22, 2019, KORANTENG caused the deposit into his personal bank account of a \$21,730 check written from Everlasting Hardware Inc.'s Wells Fargo account.

6. It was further part of the conspiracy that defendant EUGENE O. KORANTENG and other members of the conspiracy who had agreed to negotiate checks would return a portion of the proceeds to their co-conspirators, including by converting the proceeds to cash, in order to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, and control of the proceeds. For example, during three transactions occurring between on or about March 25, 2019 and April 2, 2019, KORANTENG withdrew cash totaling approximately \$21,700 of the fraud proceeds from his personal bank account, including at bank branches in Moorestown, New Jersey, and Lawnside, New Jersey.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION AS TO COUNT ONE

1. As a result of committing the bank fraud conspiracy offense, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349, the defendant,

EUGENE O. KORANTENG,

shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(2)(A), any property constituting, or derived from, proceeds obtained directly or indirectly as a result of the offense charged in Count One of this Information.

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION AS TO COUNT TWO

2. As a result of committing the money laundering conspiracy offense, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h), the defendant,

EUGENE O. KORANTENG,

shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1), any and all property, real or personal, involved in the offense charged in Count Two of this Information, and any property traceable to such property.

Substitute Assets Provision  
(Applicable to all Forfeiture Counts)

3. If any of the above-described forfeitable property, 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 person;
- (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 subdivided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(p), as incorporated by 18 U.S.C. § 982(b), to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendant up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

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PHILIP R. SELLINGER  
United States Attorney

CASE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
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**EUGENE O. KORANTENG**

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**INFORMATION FOR**

**18 U.S.C. § 1349**

**18 U.S.C. § 1956(h)**

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**PHILIP R. SELLINGER**

*U.S. ATTORNEY*

*NEWARK, NEW JERSEY*

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**JEFFREY BENDER**

*ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY*

*CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY*

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