



Letorrance Travis, Luis Manuel Zuniga, and Karl David Audirsch Arrested and Charged by a Criminal Complaint Alleging Federal Drug Crimes

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 12:08 PM November 8, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on November 7, 2011 released the following:
"BUFFALO, NY—U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Letorrance Travis, 24, of Buffalo, N.Y.; Luis Manuel Zuniga, 28, of Texas; and Karl David Audirsch, 38, of Louisiana, were arrested and charged by criminal complaint with conspiring to possess with intent to distribute, and to distribute, five kilograms or more of cocaine. The charge carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison, a maximum sentence of life, and a \$10,000,000 fine.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas S. Duskiewicz, who is handling the case, the investigation focused on the drug trafficking activities of Letorrance Travis and his associates. On November 6, 2011, agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, seized approximately 14 kilograms of cocaine and tens of thousands of dollars in United States currency through a series of controlled acquisitions of cocaine and searches of several residences. The organization used minivans with hidden traps to transport kilograms of cocaine to Buffalo, New York on a monthly basis.

The defendants appeared before Magistrate Judge Jeremiah McCarthy this afternoon. They are being held without bail pending a detention hearing Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.

"This case constitutes yet another large seizure of dangerous narcotics made possible thanks to the combined efforts of law enforcement and prosecutors in our

office," said U.S. Attorney Hochul. "One would think that those who traffic in such illegal and potentially deadly substances would begin to get the message that their days are numbered, and that all of us in law enforcement stand committed to removing this scourge from our communities. In this case, both the drugs and any profits that may have been made are gone forever, with the defendants themselves facing extremely severe penalties."

DEA Acting Special Agent in Charge Wilbert L. Plummer stated, "These arrests signify the end of one drug pipeline that funneled cocaine from the Mexican border to the streets of Buffalo, New York. Law enforcement has been challenged and are successfully facing drug trafficking organizations across the country who try to distribute poison throughout our communities. Through coordinated efforts this organization has been eliminated."

FBI Special Agent in Charge Christopher M. Piehota stated, "The FBI recognizes the need to interdict drug trafficking and its related gang violence by using a layered, law-enforcement approach. This weekend's developments represent outstanding, collective work with DEA and other law enforcement agencies. The joint operation revealed that the drugs seized were headed to a local gang here in Buffalo. Unfortunately, the impact of gang violence is not confined to the gang members and rivals—instead, entire neighborhoods are destroyed through the fear and suffering that ensues."

The Criminal Complaint is the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Wilbert L. Plummer, Acting Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Division, the Federal Bureau of

Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Christopher M. Piehota, the Buffalo Police Department, under the direction of Commissioner Daniel Derenda, the Lockport Police Department, under the direction of Chief Lawrence Eggert, the Tonawanda Police Department, under the direction of Chief Anthony Palombo, the Amherst Police Department, under the direction of Chief John Askey, the Lancaster Police Department, under the direction of Chief Gerald Gill and the Erie County Sheriff's Department, under the direction of Sheriff Timothy Howard.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty."

Douglas McNabb – McNabb Associates, P.C.'s

Federal Criminal Defense Attorneys
Videos:

[Federal Crimes – Federal Indictment](#)
[Federal Crimes – Detention Hearing](#)

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Crimes Watch Daily](#).

Douglas McNabb and other members of the U.S. law firm practice and write and/or report extensively on matters involving Federal Criminal Defense, INTERPOL Red Notice Removal, International Extradition and OFAC SDN Sanctions Removal.

The author of this blog is Douglas McNabb. Please feel free to contact him directly at mcnabb@mcnabbassociates.com or at one of the offices listed above.

Associate Attorney General Lanny A. Breuer Speaks at the 26th National Conference on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 2:21 PM November 8, 2011

"The FCPA is an important mechanism for holding individuals and corporations

accountable for fostering corruption abroad, and for motivating others to act responsibly," said Assistant Attorney General Breuer.

Statement of Attorney General Eric Holder Before the Senate Judiciary Committee

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 10:20 AM November 8, 2011

"I am extremely proud of the Department's historic achievements over the last two years," said Attorney General Holder.



Federal Judge considers extradition of woman accused of Bosnian war crimes

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 10:01 AM November 8, 2011

Kentucky.com on November 8, 2011

released the following:

“By Jennifer Hewlett

For three hours Monday, a federal judge in Lexington heard testimony on whether a Croatian-born woman accused of murdering and torturing civilians during the Bosnian civil war in the 1990s should be extradited from Kentucky to face charges in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Azra Basic, 52, a former Croatian soldier, is accused of murdering and torturing ethnic Serbians at prison camps from April to June 1992. She'd lived in Kentucky for several years when she was taken into custody in March by federal authorities.

Patrick Nash, Basic's attorney, told U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert E. Wier that Basic was in two Croatian army brigades, but not the two brigades that authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina cite in documents. Basic, Nash said, did not serve in a military police unit or as a guard or commander of a prison camp.

Nash said that a prisoner Basic is alleged to have fatally stabbed in the neck, Blagoje Djuras, is clearly identified as a soldier and not a civilian in documents supplied to the U.S. government. And Nash said there were indications that at least some alleged witnesses to atrocities alleged to have been committed by Basic were also soldiers and not civilians.

Nash also said there were two Azras that overseas witnesses in the case talk about.

The “great big hole” in the case is how witnesses get from the Azra who did these things to the Azra in the U.S., Nash said. He questioned the validity of a six-photo lineup in which Basic was the only non-Serbian.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Arehart said several people positively identified Basic as the person being sought from the photos. He said he didn't think there is any evidence contradicting assertions that the witnesses were civilians at the time of the alleged crimes.

“I think Mr. Nash makes a good argument for acquittal beyond a reasonable doubt,” Arehart said. But he added that that was not at issue in an extradition hearing.

The attorneys also argued Monday over

whether a required warrant for Basic's arrest had been produced. Nash said a warrant has never been produced, while government attorneys maintained that a notice issued by Interpol after that agency received a letter from a Bosnian prosecutor is the warrant.

More than 100,000 people were killed in the war that followed the collapse of Yugoslavia. Muslim Bosnians, Catholic Croats and Christian Orthodox Serbs were pitted against one another in the war.

Nash said records show that Basic's father was a Muslim and her mother was a Croatian Catholic, and that Basic had citizenship in both Croatia and Bosnia. Basic and her then-husband entered the United States as refugees in 1994, Nash said.

“In 2007, she became a U.S. citizen, right here in this courthouse,” he said.

Three people testified at Monday's extradition hearing, including Karen Mingst, a University of Kentucky professor, who discussed the history of the former Yugoslavia and the cultural differences there. Also testifying were Lucille Loman of Stanton, with whom Basic was living when she was taken in by federal marshals, and Edith Fultz of Cynthiana, Loman's sister-in-law, who also had come to know Basic. Nash indicated that he called the latter two witnesses to show that Basic was not trying to hide from anyone or hide her past while living in Kentucky.

Loman said she first met Basic about eight or nine years ago, when she and Basic worked together at Tanbark Health Care Center in Lexington. Basic was a nurse's aide; Loman was a private sitter. At the time, Basic lived in an apartment in Jessamine County, she said.

Loman said people knew Basic by the names “Isabelle” and “Azra.” Some people called Basic “Easy” because they could not pronounce Azra, she said.

“She just became one of our family,” Loman said. “She don't have no family, you know. I wanted her to live with us because she didn't have no family in the United States.”

Loman said Basic lived with her and her family in Lexington for about a year, paying her share of the bills. When Loman's family decided to move to Powell County, she invited Basic to move

there with them, and she did, Loman said. Basic worked at a nursing home in Stanton for a time. She was working at a Nestle's food plant in Mount Sterling at the time of her arrest.

Loman said Basic told her “some” about her military service. Basic told her she became sick to her stomach when she killed a man while in the military, she said.

“It was her or him to be killed,” Loman said.

Basic also told Loman she had been taken prisoner by Serbs, and was beaten and raped by Serbs, Loman said.

Wier gave attorneys about two weeks to file post-hearing briefs and said he would rule on the extradition issue as soon as possible.”

Douglas McNabb – McNabb Associates, P.C.'s

International Extradition Lawyers

Videos:

[International Extradition – When the FBI Seeks Extradition](#)

[International Extradition – Wire Transfer – Email – Telephone Call](#)

Douglas McNabb – McNabb Associates, P.C.'s

Federal Criminal Defense Attorneys

Videos:

[Federal Crimes – Appeal](#)

We previously discussed the [extradition treaty between the United States and Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) here.

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Crimes Watch Daily](#).

Douglas McNabb and other members of the U.S. law firm practice and write and/or report extensively on matters involving Federal Criminal Defense, INTERPOL Red Notice Removal, International Extradition and OFAC SDN Sanctions Removal.

The author of this blog is Douglas McNabb. Please feel free to contact him directly at mcnabb@mcnabbassociates.com or at one of the offices listed above.

Miami-Area Patient Recruiter Pleads Guilty in \$25 Million Health Care Fraud Scheme

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 10:40 AM November 8, 2011

Beatriz Torres-Cruz, 50, pleaded guilty

before U.S. District Judge Joan A. Lenard in Miami to one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud and one count of

solicitation of health care kickbacks.



California Dispensaries Moving to Block U.S. Marijuana Crackdown

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 9:37 AM November 8, 2011

The New York Times on November 7, 2011 released the following:

“By ERIK ECKHOLM

SAN FRANCISCO — Lawyers for the medical marijuana industry said on Monday that they would seek court orders to halt a threatened federal crackdown on marijuana dispensaries, their landlords and marijuana growers.

In legal motions to be filed on Tuesday, marijuana distributors and some medical patients will ask federal judges in four districts to issue temporary restraining orders to prevent federal prosecutors from taking action, lawyers and a lobbyist for the industry said at a news conference here on Monday.

“The government’s irrational policy has reached a breaking point,” said Matthew Kumin, one of the lawyers. “The federal government said it will not prosecute patients, and yet they want to shut off their supply. This doesn’t make sense.”

Marijuana remains illegal under federal law, though its use is allowed for medical purposes in California and some other states. But federal prosecutors and drug agents say that behind the mask of meeting medical needs, much of California’s burgeoning marijuana industry is engaged in large-scale illegal sales.

Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole Speaks at the Department of Justice’s Annual American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month Commemorative Program

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 12:42 PM November 8, 2011

“As we honor American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage month, we work to build on our continued progress strengthening tribal law enforcement,” said Deputy Attorney General Cole.

In letters sent out in late September, the prosecutors warned numerous dispensaries to shut down or face serious civil or criminal charges, including possible seizure of the property of their landlords. Recipients of letters were given 45 days to halt illegal sales, a period that for many ends on Saturday.

Mr. Kumin said that if a restraining order was not quickly granted by the federal judges, he expected some dispensaries to shut down.

The courts could issue an immediate restraint, schedule hearings on whether to grant a preliminary injunction or deny the requests, which the plaintiffs argue are based on a variety of constitutional and state rights.

Tensions between California and the federal government over medical marijuana have been building since the state became the first to authorize public sales, in 1996. Now, 15 other states and the District of Columbia also allow sales of marijuana to patients with a doctor’s prescription.

A thriving industry of growers and storefront dispensaries has emerged in California that pays substantial sums in state and local taxes, but that federal drug officials see as largely illegal. The Internal Revenue Service has also started a crackdown, denying some sellers the right to deduct marijuana-related business expenses.

Asked to comment on the suits, Benjamin B. Wagner, the United States attorney for the Eastern District of California, issued this statement: “Unless and until ordered otherwise, we will continue to do our duty in enforcing federal narcotics laws.””

Douglas McNabb – McNabb Associates, P.C.’s

Federal Criminal Defense Attorneys Videos:

[Federal Crimes – Be Careful](#)

[Federal Crimes – Be Proactive](#)

[Federal Crimes – Federal Indictment](#)

[Federal Crimes – Detention Hearing](#)

[Federal Mail Fraud Crimes](#)

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Crimes Watch Daily](#).

Douglas McNabb and other members of the U.S. law firm practice and write and/or report extensively on matters involving Federal Criminal Defense, INTERPOL Red Notice Removal, International Extradition and OFAC SDN Sanctions Removal.

The author of this blog is Douglas McNabb. Please feel free to contact him directly at mcnabb@mcnabbassociates.com or at one of the offices listed above.

Aaron T. Ford Named Special Agent in Charge of the FBI’s Memphis Division

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 9:27 AM November 8, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation on November 7, 2011 released the following: “Director Robert S. Mueller, III has named Aaron T. Ford special agent in charge of the FBI’s Memphis Division. Mr. Ford most recently served as an inspector in the FBI’s Inspection Division at FBI Headquarters (FBIHQ) since August 2010. He oversaw field office and FBIHQ inspections, shooting incident review teams, audits, and special inquiries.

Mr. Ford began his career as an FBI agent in August 1985. His first assignment was to the St. Louis Division, where he worked violent crime and organized crime matters. He was also a SWAT team

member, where he participated in the execution of numerous high-risk threats, search warrants, and protective details.

In June 1989, Mr. Ford transferred to the Newark Division. He served as team leader on the SWAT team. In August 1998, he was promoted to supervisory special agent on a drug squad.

Two years later, in January 2000, he became a supervisor for the public corruption/civil rights squad. In August 2005, he was assigned as supervisory special resident agent of the Red Bank Resident Agency. While in this role, he supervised all criminal matters.

Mr. Ford returned to FBIHQ in February 2006 as a team leader in the Inspection Division, where he served until August



Bradley Whitsell Charged with Mail Fraud was Sentenced by U.S. District Judge Lawrence L. Piersol

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 1:47 PM November 8, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on November 7, 2011 released the following:

“Sioux Falls Man Sentenced for Mail Fraud

U.S. Attorney Brendan V. Johnson announced that a Sioux Falls man charged with mail fraud was sentenced on November 7, 2011, by U.S. District Judge Lawrence L. Piersol. Bradley Whitsell, age 46, was sentenced to 24 months in custody, a \$10,000 fine, three years of supervised release, restitution in the amount of \$476,184.77 which the defendant has paid in full, and a \$100 Victim Assistance Fund assessment.

Whitsell was indicted for mail fraud and wire fraud by a federal grand jury on June 7, 2011. Whitsell pled guilty to mail fraud on August 22, 2011, and count two of the

AARON

continued from page 3

2007. He participated in the auditing of all FBI programs. In October 2007, he made his way back to the Newark Division as assistant special agent in charge. Mr. Ford oversaw the administrative branch and later the criminal enterprise branch.

Prior to his FBI career, he served as a special agent with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Ford investigated violent crime, fugitive, drug, and corruption cases.

Mr. Ford is a native of Atlanta, Georgia. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in criminology from Tennessee State University and a Juris Doctor degree from Rutgers School of Law.”

indictment, wire fraud, was dismissed.

Whitsell, a former management employee of SDN Communications, used his various oversight positions to embezzle funds totaling approximately \$392,111.65 from SDN over approximately 10 years beginning in 2000.

As part of his plea agreement, Whitsell agreed to make full restitution to SDN Communications of \$476,184.77 which includes the amount he stole, plus the amount SDN spent on a forensic audit that uncovered the theft.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin Koliner prosecuted the case.

Whitsell will be allowed to self-surrender to the U.S. Marshal on November 28, 2011.”

Douglas McNabb – McNabb Associates,

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Crimes Watch Daily](#).

Douglas McNabb and other members of the U.S. law firm practice and write and/or report extensively on matters involving Federal Criminal Defense, INTERPOL Red Notice Removal, International Extradition and OFAC SDN Sanctions Removal.

The author of this blog is Douglas McNabb. Please feel free to contact him directly at mcnabb@mcnabbassociates.com or at one of the offices listed above.

P.C.’s

Federal Criminal Defense Attorneys Videos:

[Federal Mail Fraud Crimes](#)
[Federal Crimes – Appeal](#)

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Crimes Watch Daily](#).

Douglas McNabb and other members of the U.S. law firm practice and write and/or report extensively on matters involving Federal Criminal Defense, INTERPOL Red Notice Removal, International Extradition and OFAC SDN Sanctions Removal.

The author of this blog is Douglas McNabb. Please feel free to contact him directly at mcnabb@mcnabbassociates.com or at one of the offices listed above.