

RECEIVED

SEP 29 2020

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT ZAHID N. QURAISHI
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Honorable Zahid N. Quraishi

v.

Mag. No. 20-14037 (ZNQ)

MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA,
a/k/a "Chino";
WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA,
a/k/a "Manin";
ENRIQUE QUIJADA,
a/k/a "El Enano 13,"
a/k/a "Kike";
JAVIER RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS,
a/k/a "Broly"; and
JACQUELYN DEJESUS

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, Ronald Duce, being duly sworn, state that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

SEE ATTACHMENT A

I further state that I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and that this Complaint is based on the following facts:

SEE ATTACHMENT B

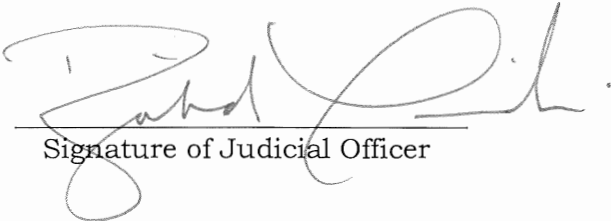
continued on the attached pages and made a part hereof.

s/Ronald Duce

Ronald Duce, Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Attested to by telephone pursuant to
Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1(b)(2)(A)
on September 29, 2020,
in the District of New Jersey

Honorable Zahid N. Quraishi
United States Magistrate Judge
Name and Title of Judicial Officer



Signature of Judicial Officer

ATTACHMENT A

Count One

(Conspiracy to Engage in Firearms Trafficking)

From at least in or around May 2020 through in or around September 2020, in Monmouth County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendants,

MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA, a/k/a “Chino”;
WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA, a/k/a “Manin”;
ENRIQUE QUIJADA, a/k/a “El Enano 13,” a/k/a “Kike”;
JAVIER RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS, a/k/a “Broly”; and
JACQUELYN DEJESUS,

did knowingly and intentionally conspire and agree with each other and others to engage in the business of dealing in firearms, while not being federally-licensed dealers, importers, or manufacturers of firearms, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(a)(1)(A).

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

OVERT ACTS

In furtherance of this conspiracy and to effect its unlawful object, the following overt acts, among others, were committed in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere:

1. On or about May 19, 2020, defendant MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA, a/k/a “Chino,” sold an individual a firearm and ammunition during a meeting in or around Morganville, New Jersey.

2. On or about June 19, 2020, defendant ENRIQUE QUIJADA, a/k/a “El Enano 13,” a/k/a “Kike,” sold an individual a firearm and ammunition during a meeting in or around Freehold Borough, New Jersey.

3. On or about September 8, 2020, defendant MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA, a/k/a “Chino,” sold an individual a firearm and ammunition during a meeting in or around Jackson, New Jersey.

COUNT TWO
(Felon in Possession of a Firearm)

On or about May 19, 2020, in Monmouth County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant,

MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA, a/k/a “Chino,”

knowing that he had previously been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year in a court in the State of New Jersey, did knowingly possess a firearm, namely, a .380 caliber Ruger, Model LCP, semi-automatic handgun, bearing serial number 372222916, and the firearm was in and affecting commerce.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1).

COUNT THREE
(Felon in Possession of a Firearm)

On or about June 19, 2020, in Monmouth County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant,

JAVIER RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS, a/k/a “Broly,”

knowing that he had previously been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year in a court in the State of New Jersey, did knowingly possess a firearm, namely, an American Tactical, Omni Hybrid, .223 caliber semi-automatic rifle, bearing serial number NS275754, and a magazine containing thirty rounds of .223 ammunition, and the firearm was in and affecting commerce.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1).

COUNT FOUR

(Unlawful Transfer, Sale, or Transport of a Firearm to an
Unlicensed Resident of Another State)

On or about May 19, 2020, in Monmouth County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendants,

MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA, a/k/a “Chino”; and
JACQUELYN DEJESUS,

not being licensed importers, manufacturers, dealers, and collectors of firearms, within the meaning of Chapter 44, Title 18, United States Code, did willfully transfer, sell, transport, and deliver a firearm, namely, a .380 caliber Ruger, Model LCP, semi-automatic handgun, bearing serial number 372222916, to a person, said person not being a licensed importer, manufacturer, dealer, and collector of firearms, within the meaning of Chapter 44, Title 18, United States Code, and knowing and with reasonable cause to believe that said person was not then residing in the State of Florida, the State in which the defendants were residing at the time of the transfer, sale, transport, and delivery of the firearm.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(a)(5), 924(a)(1)(D), and 2.

ATTACHMENT B

I, Ronald Duce, am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”). I am fully familiar with the facts set forth herein based on my own investigation, my conversations with other law enforcement officers, and my review of reports, documents and other items of evidence. Where statements of others are related herein, they are related in substance and part. Because this complaint is being submitted for a limited purpose, I have not set forth each and every fact that I know concerning this investigation. Where I assert that an event took place on a particular date, I am asserting that it took place on or about the date alleged.

I. BACKGROUND

1. Since in or around April 2020, law enforcement has conducted an investigation into an unlawful firearms trafficking conspiracy operating in and around Monmouth County, New Jersey and elsewhere.

2. Multiple confidential sources of information assisted law enforcement during this investigation, including by conducting controlled purchases of firearms from members of the conspiracy, including defendants ENRIQUE QUIJADA, a/k/a “El Enano 13,” a/k/a “Kike” (hereafter, “QUIJADA”) and MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA, a/k/a “Chino” (hereafter, “MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA”) between in or around May 2020 and in or around September 2020. The information and assistance provided during the investigation by the confidential sources has been corroborated through other evidence law enforcement has obtained, including consensually-recorded telephone communications and in-person meetings with co-conspirators, physical and video surveillance, and other investigative techniques.

3. The investigation revealed that from at least as early as in or around May 2020 to the present, defendants QUIJADA, MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA, WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA, a/k/a “Manin” (hereafter, “WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA”), JAVIER RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS, a/k/a “Broly” (hereafter, “RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS”), and JACQUELYN DEJESUS (hereafter, “DEJESUS”) conspired and agreed with each other to engage in the unlawful trafficking of firearms in and around Monmouth County, New Jersey and beyond. Among other things, members of the conspiracy took the following steps, among others, in furtherance of the conspiracy’s unlawful objectives: (a) unlawfully obtained firearms in Florida; (b) transported those firearms from Florida to Monmouth County, New Jersey; and (c) unlawfully sold the firearms for profit to others in and around Monmouth County, New Jersey.

4. Law enforcement’s investigation revealed the manner and means by which members of the conspiracy carried out the organization’s unlawful firearms trafficking activities. In general, DEJESUS acted as a straw purchaser

of firearms for the conspiracy in Florida and, along with MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA, transported the firearms from Florida to Monmouth County, New Jersey, where MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA, WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA, RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS, and QUIJADA sold the firearms for profit to others, including confidential sources working at the direction and supervision of law enforcement.

5. At all times relevant to this complaint:
 - a. MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA resided in or around Bartow, Florida, and was a leading member of the firearms trafficking conspiracy. In furtherance of the conspiracy, MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA, along with DEJESUS, transported firearms from Florida to Monmouth County, New Jersey for the purpose of unlawfully selling the firearms for profit to others.
 - b. DEJESUS resided in or around Bartow, Florida, and was a member of the firearms trafficking conspiracy. In furtherance of the conspiracy, DEJESUS acted as a straw purchaser of firearms for the conspiracy and, along with MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA, transported the firearms from Florida to Monmouth County, New Jersey, for the purpose of unlawfully selling the firearms for profit to others.
 - c. WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA resided in or around Monmouth County, New Jersey, and was a member of the firearms trafficking conspiracy. In furtherance of the conspiracy, WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA assisted MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA by arranging an unlawful firearm transaction between MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA (as the seller) and a confidential source (as the buyer).
 - d. RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS resided in or around Monmouth County, New Jersey, and was a member of the firearms trafficking conspiracy. In furtherance of the conspiracy, RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS unlawfully sold firearms for profit to others in and around Monmouth County, New Jersey and, along with WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA, assisted MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA by arranging unlawful firearms transactions between MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA (as the seller) and a confidential source (as the buyer).
 - e. QUIJADA resided in or around Monmouth County, New Jersey, and was a member of the firearms trafficking conspiracy. In furtherance of the conspiracy, QUIJADA unlawfully sold

firearms for profit to others, including a confidential source, in and around Monmouth County, New Jersey.

6. At all times relevant to this criminal complaint, none of the defendants is or was a federally-licensed dealer, importer, or manufacturer of firearms, and none was authorized to engage in the business of dealing in firearms. In fact, MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA and RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS are previously-convicted felons and were prohibited from possessing a firearm under federal law.

II. CONTROLLED PURCHASES OF FIREARMS

A. The May 2020 Firearm Sale

7. On or about May 14, 2020, a confidential source working at the direction and supervision of law enforcement (“CS”) communicated with WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA and RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS, and made arrangements to meet WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA and RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS at RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS’s residence in Morganville, New Jersey for the purpose of purchasing a firearm from MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA for \$1,100. Prior to the transaction, law enforcement met the CS at a predetermined location, searched the CS and his/her vehicle for contraband and currency with negative results, and provided the CS with the necessary funds to make the controlled purchase of the firearm from MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA. Law enforcement also equipped the CS with a covert audio- and video-recording device to record the transaction.

8. Thereafter, the CS drove to RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS’s residence for the firearm transaction. Upon arrival, the CS met with RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS and WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA, and engaged in conversation with them as the CS waited for MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA to arrive with the firearm. During the conversation, RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS stated, in sum and substance, that he was responsible for supplying everyone in Freehold with firearms, and that it would be rare for someone in Freehold to have a firearm and for RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS not to know about it. Later in the conversation, the CS advised RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS and WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA that the CS was associated with a street gang whose members may be interested in obtaining guns with more firepower, and asked if that was something RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS, WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA, and MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA could obtain. RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS responded affirmatively, and explained that an assault rifle would cost the CS approximately \$5,000. Ultimately, the firearm transaction did not take place on or about May 14, 2020 because MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA never appeared for the sale at RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS’s residence, and the CS’s subsequent efforts to meet with M. ESPINOSA-OZORIA that day at an alternate location were unsuccessful.

9. On or about May 19, 2020, WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA contacted the CS and advised that MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA was ready to sell the CS the firearm that the CS previously attempted to purchase on or about May 14, 2020, as described above. WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA instructed the CS to proceed to RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS's residence for the transaction. Prior to the transaction, law enforcement met with the CS at a predetermined location, and searched the CS's person and vehicle for contraband and currency with negative results. Law enforcement also provided the CS with \$1,100 to make the controlled purchase from MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA, and equipped the CS with a covert audio- and video-recording device to record the transaction.

10. Thereafter, the CS proceeded to RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS's residence to execute the firearm transaction with MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA. Upon arrival, the CS met with RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS and WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA while the CS waited for MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA to arrive. A short time later, MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA arrived in a vehicle driven by DEJESUS. The CS entered the rear passenger seat of the vehicle. While inside the vehicle, the CS handed MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA the money that law enforcement had provided and, in exchange, MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA gave the CS a black and red .380 caliber Ruger, Model LCP, semi-automatic handgun bearing serial number 372222916, a magazine loaded with .380 caliber ammunition, a box of .380 caliber ammunition, a trigger lock, and a black handgun holster. During the transaction, MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA also provided the CS with his telephone number and advised the CS to contact him for any additional firearms the CS may wish to purchase from MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA in the future.

11. Following the controlled purchase of the firearm, the CS departed RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS's residence and proceeded back to a prearranged location as instructed, where the CS again met with law enforcement. The CS provided law enforcement with the firearm and accessories that he/she had purchased from MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA.

12. The firearm that the CS purchased from MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA on or about May 19, 2020 had been purchased by DEJESUS from a federally-licensed firearms dealer in Lakeland, Florida on or about May 7, 2020.

B. The June 2020 Firearm Sale

13. On or about June 17, 2020, QUIJADA sent the CS a photograph of a semi-automatic rifle that he offered to sell to the CS in exchange for \$5,000. The CS, acting at the direction of law enforcement, agreed to purchase the rifle from QUIJADA and made arrangements to meet with QUIJADA for the

transaction at QUIJADA's residence in Freehold Borough, New Jersey on or about June 19, 2020.

14. Prior to the transaction on or about June 19, 2020, law enforcement met with the CS at a predetermined location, and searched the CS's person and vehicle for contraband and currency with negative results. Law enforcement also provided the CS with the necessary funds to make the controlled purchase from QUIJADA, and equipped the CS with a covert audio- and video-recording device to record the transaction. Thereafter, the CS drove to QUIJADA's residence and met with QUIJADA for the firearm transaction. The CS handed QUIJADA the \$5,000 that law enforcement had provided to him/her. QUIJADA advised the CS that he did not have the firearm yet, and explained that the firearm would be delivered to QUIJADA's residence shortly.

15. A short time later, law enforcement observed a black Mercedes Benz GS350, bearing a New Jersey license plate and registered to WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA (hereafter, the "Black Mercedes"), arrive at QUIJADA's residence. RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS, the driver, and WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA, the front-seat passenger, exited the Black Mercedes. RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS walked to the rear of the Black Mercedes, opened the hatchback compartment, and removed a green laundry bag. RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS and WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA then met with QUIJADA at the rear of QUIJADA's vehicle (which was parked in the driveway), and placed the green laundry bag in the trunk of QUIJADA's vehicle. Thereafter, RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS and WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA returned to the Black Mercedes and departed the area, as QUIJADA removed the green laundry bag from the trunk of his vehicle and walked behind the residence. Shortly thereafter, QUIJADA and the CS, who now had possession of the green laundry bag, emerged from the rear of QUIJADA's residence and placed the green bag in the trunk of the CS's vehicle. The CS then entered his/her vehicle and departed the area.

16. Following the controlled purchase, the CS proceeded back to a prearranged location as instructed, where he/she again met with law enforcement. The CS provided law enforcement with the green laundry bag that he/she had obtained from QUIJADA. Inside the green laundry bag was an American Tactical, Omni Hybrid, .223 caliber semi-automatic rifle with an obliterated external serial number¹ and a magazine containing thirty rounds of .223 ammunition.

¹ Law enforcement later contacted the manufacturer of the .223 caliber rifle and learned that, in addition to the external serial number, this firearm also contains a hidden serial number, NS275754, which law enforcement was able to locate.

C. The September 2020 Firearm Sale

17. Between on or about September 4, 2020 and on or about September 6, 2020, RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS contacted the CS via telephone on several occasions and advised the CS that he had firearms available for sale, including a .380 caliber handgun for \$1,500. On or about September 6, 2020, the CS spoke with RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS via telephone, advised RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS that he/she was interested in purchasing the firearms, but that he/she would not be able to meet for the transaction until on or about September 8, 2020.

18. On or about September 8, 2020, at the direction of law enforcement, the CS contacted RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS via telephone in the presence of law enforcement agents. During this call, RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS advised the CS that the .380 caliber handgun was still available for the CS to purchase, and the CS agreed to purchase that firearm. RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS advised that he would arrange for the seller, MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA, to meet with the CS later that day. In a subsequent call, RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS advised the CS that MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA and DEJESUS would meet the CS for the transaction at the CS's residence in Ocean County, New Jersey.

19. Prior to the transaction, law enforcement met with the CS at a predetermined location, and searched the CS's person and vehicle for contraband and currency with negative results. Law enforcement also provided the CS with the necessary funds to make the controlled purchase from MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA, and equipped the CS with a covert audio- and video-recording device to record the transaction. The CS then proceeded to his/her residence and waited for M. ESPINOSA-OZORIA to arrive.

20. A short time later, MANUEL ESPONISA-OZORIA arrived in a 2014 silver Kia, bearing a Florida temporary license plate and registered to DEJESUS (hereafter, the "Silver Kia"), operated by DEJESUS. MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA exited the front passenger seat of the Silver Kia and met with the CS outside the residence. MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA then walked back over to the front passenger side of the Silver Kia and removed a brown paper bag from the vehicle. The CS and MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA proceeded to the backyard of the CS's residence, where the CS handed MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA the money that law enforcement had provided and, in exchange, MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA gave the CS a Cobra .380 caliber semi-automatic handgun bearing serial number FS089850, and a magazine loaded with six rounds of .380 ammunition and one round of 9 millimeter ammunition. During the transaction, MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA advised the CS that, in the future, the CS could contact MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA directly to place an order for any type of firearm the CS wanted to purchase. MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA advised the CS that he could obtain

various types of firearms for the CS, including .40 caliber firearms, .45 caliber firearms, and assault rifles.

21. Following the controlled purchase, the CS met with law enforcement agents and provided agents with the firearm that he/she had purchased from MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA.

22. The investigation has revealed that MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA, WALDIN ESPINOSA-OZORIA, QUIJADA, RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS, and DEJESUS are not, and never have been, federally-licensed dealers, importers, or manufacturers of firearms. In addition, based on my training, experience, and research, as well as my discussions with other law enforcement agents and individuals with relevant knowledge, I am aware that the typical retail price for each of the firearms described herein is significantly lower than the price the defendants charged the CS for each firearm.

23. Each of the firearms described in this criminal complaint was manufactured outside the State of New Jersey and, therefore, must have necessarily travelled in interstate commerce for the CS to purchase them in New Jersey.

24. I have reviewed the relevant criminal history records for MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA. On or about December 18, 2015, MANUEL ESPINOSA-OZORIA was convicted in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Ocean County, of fourth-degree criminal trespass, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:18-3a; third-degree burglary, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:18-2a(1); third-degree theft from the person, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:20-2(b)(2)(D); and third-degree possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4(d), all of which are crimes punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year. He was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of more than one year.

25. I have reviewed the relevant criminal history records for RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS. On or about August 6, 2010, RODRIGUEZ-VALPAIS was convicted in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Monmouth County, of second-degree unlawful possession of a handgun, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5b, a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year. He was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of five years, with a three-year term of parole ineligibility.