1 David K. Demergian, Esq. (CSBN 095008) ELECTRONICALLY FILED DEMERGIAN LAW Superior Court of California, County of San Diego 501 W. Broadway, Suite 800 San Diego, California 92101-3546 03/21/2023 at 03:24:00 PM (619) 239-3015 3 Direct Telephone: Clerk of the Superior Court (619) 239-3029 Facsimile: By Bernabe Montijo Deputy Clerk david@demergianlaw.com 4 5 Attorney for Defendant/Cross-Complainant/ Cross-Defendant NINUS MALAN 6 7 8 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 9 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO 10 HALL OF JUSTICE BRANCH 11 -00O00-12 Case No. 37-2018-00034229-CU-BC-CTL SALAM RAZUKI, an Individual, [IMAGED CASE] Plaintiff, 13 Consolidated With Case No. 37-2018-000039388-CU-BC-CTL 14 VS. 15 NINUS MALAN, an individual; CHRIS HAKIM, an Individual; MÓNARCH MANAGEMENT CONSULTING, INC., a California Corporation; 16 REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE IN SUPPORT OF SAN DIEGO UNITED HOLDINGS GROUP, 17 LLC., a California Limited Liability Company; MOTION BY NINUS MALAN FLIP MANAGEMENT, LLC., a California Limited Liability Company; MIRA ESTE PROPERTIES, LLC., a California Limited Liability Company; FOR SANCTIONS PURSUANT TO CCP §128.5 AGAINST PLAINTIFF 18 AND CROSS-DEFENDANT 19 ROSELLE PROPERTIES, LLC, a California SALAM RAZUKI Limited Liability Company; BALBOA AVE. COOPERATIVE, a California Non-Profit Mutual 20 Benefit Corporation; CALIFORNIA CANNABIS GROUP, a California Non-Profit Mutual Benefit Corporation; DEVILISH DELIGHTS, INC., a 21 Date: 4-14-23 Time: 9:00 a.m. 22 California Non-Profit Mutual Benefit Corporation; I/C Judge: Hon. Eddie C. Sturgeon Dept: C-67 Filed: 7-10-18 and DOES 1 through 100, Inclusive, 23 Trial Date: 4-14-23 Defendants. 24 NINUS MALAN; an Individual; 25 CALIFORNIA CANNABIS GROUP, a California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation; DEVILISH DELIGHTS, INC., a California 26 Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation; BALBOA 27 AVÉ. COOPERATIVE, a California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation; AMERICAN 28

REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE IN SUPPORT OF MOTION BY NINUS MALAN FOR SANCTIONS PURSUANT TO CCP §128.5 AGAINST PLAINTIFF AND CROSS-DEFENDANT SALAM RAZUKI

1	LENDING AND HOLDINGS, LLC, a Limited
2	Liability Company; MONARCH MANAGEMENT ) CONSULTING, INC., a California Corporation;
3	FLIP MANAGEMENT, LLC, a Limited Liability ) Company; SAN DIEGO UNITED HOLDINGS, ) GROUP, LLC, a Limited Liability Company, )
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5	Cross-Complainants ) vs.
6	SALAM RAZUKI, an Individual; RAZUKI
7	INVESTMENTS, LLC, a Limited Liability ) Company; MARVIN RAZUKI, an Individual; )
8	SARAH RAZUKI, an Individual; MATTHEW   )   RAZUKI, an Individual; SH WESTPOINT   )
9	GROUP, LLC, A Limited Liability Company; ) EL CAJON INVESTMENTS GROUP, LLC, a )
10	California Limited Liability Company; SAN
11	California Limited Liability Company; )   STONECREST PLAZA, LLC, a California )
12	Limited Liability Company; SUNRISE ) PROPERTY INVESTMENTS, LLC, a California )
13	Limited Liability Company; LÉMON GROVE () GROVE PLAZA, LP, a California Limited ()
14	Partnership; SOCAL BUILDING VENTURES, ) LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company; RM ) PROPERTY HOLDINGS, LLC, a Limited Liability )
15	Company; MELROSE PLACE, INC. a Delaware
16	Corporation; and ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN ) CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE )
17	RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN, OR INTEREST ) IN THE PROPERTY; SUPER 5 CONSULTING )
18	GROUP, LLC (Formerly ROE 1); ALTERNATIVE ) HEALTH COOPERATIVE, INC. (Formerly ROE 2 ) GOLDN BLOOM VENTURES, INC. (Formerly )
19	ROE 3); and ROES 4 through 50, Inclusive,
20	Cross-Defendants.
21	CHRIS HAKIM, an Individual; MIRA ESTE  PROPERTIES, LLC, a Colifornia Limited Liability
22	PROPERTIES, LLC., a California Limited Liability ) Company; and ROSELLE PROPERTIES, LLC.,
23	a California Limited Liability Company,
24	Cross-Complainants, )
25	vs.
26	SALAM RAZUKI, an Individual; SOCAL
27	BUILDING VENTURES, LLC., a Delaware ) Limited Liability Company; SAN DIEGO ) BUILDING VENTURES, LLC., a Delaware )
28	BUILDING VENTUKES, LLC., a Delaware )

1	Limited Liability Company; and ROES 51-100,
2	Cross-Defendants.
3	SOCAL BUILDING VENTURES, LLC, a
4	California Limited Liability Company; SAN  BUILDING VENTURES, LLC., a California  Limited Liability Company,
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6	Plaintiffs-In-Intervention, )
7	VS. )
8	SAN DIEGO HOLDING GROUP, LLC., a  California Limited Liability Company; BALBOA  AVE. COOPERATIVE a California Compantiva
9	AVE. COOPERATIVE, a California Cooperative ) Company; MIRE ESTE PROPERTIES, LLC., a )
10	California Limited Liability Company; ROSELLE ) PROPERTIES, LLC, a California Limited Liability )
11	Company; CHRIS HAKIM, an Individual NINUS ) MALAN; an Individual; MONARCH MANAGEMENT CONSULTING INC. 2
12	MANAGEMENT CONSULTING, INC., a ) California Corporation; CALIFORNIA CANNABIS) GROUP, a California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit )
13	Corporation; DEVILISH DELIGHTS, INC., a
14	California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation; ) FAR WEST MANAGEMENT, LLC, a California )
15	Limited Liability Company; HEIDI RISING, an ) Individual; MATTHEW FREEMAN, an )
16	Individual; ALEXIS BRIDGEWATER, an ) Individual; and ADAM KNOPF, an Individual,
17	Defendants-In-Intervention.
18	RM PROPERTY HOLDINGS, LLC., a
19	California Limited Liability Company, )
20	Cross-Complainant, )
21	vs.
22	NINUS MALAN, an Individual; and POES 1- ) 20, Inclusive,
23	Cross-Defendants.
24	SH WESTPOIINT INVESTMENTS GROUP,
25	LLC., a California Limited Liability Company; ) and SALAM RAZUKI, an Individual,
26	Plaintiffs,
27	vs.
	)

1 2	NINUS MALAN, an Individual; AMERICAN LENDING & HOLDING, LLC., a California Limited Liability Company; and DOES 1-100, Inclusive,			
3 4	Defendants.			
5	Pursuant to the provisions of California Evidence Code §452(d), for purposes of MALAN's Motion			
6	For Sanctions Pursuant To CCP §128.5 Against Plaintiff and Cross-Defendant SALAM RAZUKI on file			
7	herein, Defendant/Cross-Complainant/Cross-Defendant NINUS MALAN requests the Court take Judicial			
8	Notice (i.e. the existence and legal effect) of the following:			
9	(a) It's own file herein including, but not specifically limited to:			
10	(i) The Court's 3-22-19 ruling on MALAN's previous motion for CCP §128.5			
11	sanctions. See: Exhibit "A";			
12	(b) The file of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, Case			
13	No. 18-MJ-5915, including but not specifically limited to:			
14	(i) The Complaint & Probable Cause Statement filed as Document 1 (Exhibit "B");			
15	and			
16	(c) The file of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, Case			
17	No. 18CR5260-CAB, including but not specifically limited to:			
18	(i) The "United States Consolidated Sentencing Recommendation" filed as			
19	Document 194 (Exhibit "C").			
20	(ii) The "Judgment In A Criminal Case" filed as Document 208 (Exhibit "D").			
21				
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23	DEMERGIAN LAW			
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25	DATED: March 20, 2023			
26	David K. Demergian Attorney for Defendant/Cross- Complainant/Cross-Defendant NINUS			
27	MALAN			
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# EXHIBIT "A"

#### SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HALL OF JUSTICE TENTATIVE RULINGS - March 21, 2019

**EVENT DATE: 03/22/2019** 

EVENT TIME:

09:00:00 AM

DEPT.: C-67

JUDICIAL OFFICER: Eddie C Sturgeon

CASE NO.:

37-2018-00034229-CU-BC-CTL

CASE TITLE: RAZUKI VS MALAN [IMAGED]

CASE CATEGORY: Civil - Unlimited

CASE TYPE: Breach of Contract/Warranty

EVENT TYPE: Motion Hearing (Civil)

CAUSAL DOCUMENT/DATE FILED: Motion for Sanctions, 11/29/2018

#### **TENTATIVE RULING**

Defendant Ninus Malan's motion for sanctions is denied, without prejudice. The evidence relied upon in support of sanctions under Code of Civil Procedure section 128.5 is in flux. Defendant relies heavily on the restraining order and its declarations in support, which have subsequently been vacated based in part upon a stipulation to dismiss the petition. Judge Frederick A. Mandabach heard both the motion to vacate as well as a request for attorney's fees at the January 30, 2019 hearing. Some of the fees requested in the other case appear to overlap some of the fees requested in this case.

Furthermore, although defendants cite the federal complaint and FBI's probable cause declaration in United States of America v. Razuki 18 MJ 5915, in support of the charges against plaintiff Salam Razuki, the declaration concludes Razuki admitted the existence of the ongoing civil lawsuit, but when "he heard N.M. was missing, but thought it was a joke and denied involvement in any conspiracy to kidnap and kill N.M." (Probable cause decl., 7:19-21.)

The court does not mean to minimize Malan's concerns, or the attorney's fees incurred. Nonetheless, the motion is premature.

**TENTATIVE RULINGS** Event ID: 2040988 Calendar No.: 10

Page: 1

# EXHIBIT "B"

Case 3:18-mj-05915-MDD Document 1 Filed 11/19/18 PageID.1 Page 1 of 7

NOV 1 9 2018

CITER US METHOT GOURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALBORNIA BY DEPUTY

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

#### SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

٧.

SALAM RAZUKI (1), SYLVIA GONZALES (2), and ELIZABETH JUAREZ (3),

Defendants.

Case No.:

18MJ5915

#### **COMPLAINT**

Title 18, United States Code, Section 956 - Conspiracy to kill, kidnap, maim an individual Title 18, United States Code, Section 1201(c) - Conspiracy to kidnap

The undersigned complainant being duly sworn states:

#### **COUNT 1**

On a date unknown and continuing through on or about November 16, 2018, within the Southern District of California, defendants SALAM RAZUKI, SYLVIA GONZALES, and ELIZABETH JUAREZ did knowingly and intentionally conspire to commit at a place outside the United States, to wit: Mexico, an act that would constitute the offense of murder, kidnapping or maiming if committed in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 956.

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### **COUNT 2**

On a date unknown and continuing through on or about November 16, 2018, within the Southern District of California, defendants SALAM RAZUKI, SYLVIA GONZALES, and ELIZABETH JUAREZ did conspire with one another to willfully seize, confine, inveigle, kidnap, abduct and carry away N.M. for another purpose, to wit: intimidation and murder, and to transport N.M. in foreign commerce from the United States to Mexico, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1201(c).

And the complainant states that this complaint is based on the attached statement of facts, which is incorporated herein by reference.

MICHELLE HART

FBI Special Agent

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence

day of November, 2018.

HONORABLE WILLIAM V. GALLO

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

1/de Sant

#### **Probable Cause Statement**

On or about October 17, 2018, SALAM RAZUKI and SYLVIA GONZALES met with a Confidential Human Source (CHS1) requesting CHS1 arrange to kill one of their business associates, N.M.<sup>1</sup> According to RAZUKI and GONZALES, they had invested in multiple properties and business ventures together and were now involved in a civil dispute over their assets. RAZUKI and GONZALES told CHS1 that they wanted CHS1 to "shoot him [N.M.] in the face," "to take him to Mexico and have him whacked," or kill him in some other way. RAZUKI and GONZALES provided CHS1 a picture of N.M., which CHS1 provided to the FBI.

On or about November 5, 2018, CHS1 met with GONZALES at The Great Maple in San Diego, CA. During the meeting, GONZALES asked if CHS1 could "get rid of Salam's [RAZUKI] other little problem, [N.M.], because it looks like they're going to appeal.... I would love for him [N.M.] to go to TJ and get lost. Just leave him over there." GONZALES said the civil dispute between her, RAZUKI, and N.M. was over \$44 million dollars. GONZALES went on to say, "It's no joke, Salam [RAZUKI] has a lot of money tied up right now, and he's paying attorney fees. You need to get rid of this asshole [N.M.], he's costing me too much money!" GONZALES wanted this to occur before the next court date in their civil suit scheduled on or about November 15, 2018. At a certain point during the conversation, a server was close to their table and GONZALES said, "You don't have to kill him, you don't have to put him off the face of the earth." Despite her words at the time, GONZALES was making a slashing movement across her neck indicating she

CHS1 has been cooperating with the FBI since 2009 and had provided information, which was vetted and later determined credible, reliably over the years leading to the successful identification and prosecution of drug traffickers, money launderers, and other subjects in numerous FBI criminal investigations. RAZUKI is also a confidential source for the FBI and has been since approximately May 2014. However, RAZUKI has not informed the FBI of any of his actions, or those of GONZALES or JUAREZ, in attempting to have N.M. kidnapped and killed.

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wanted N.M. to be killed. During the conversation, GONZALES advised that there was no reason to involve RAZUKI in planning for the kidnapping of N.M. because "I am the one with the balls, any time they [business partners, including RAZUKI] have a problem, they come after me ... they say Sylvia is like a little ... honey badger ... they're like send the honey badger after them."

On November or about 8, 2018, CHS1 met with GONZALES at Banbu Sushi Bar and Grill in La Mesa, CA. At the outset of the meeting, GONZALES continued to complain about N.M. and the ongoing civil lawsuit. According to GONZALES, another individual was coming, later identified as ELIZABETH JUAREZ, to talk about how to handle N.M. GONZALES said, "Elizabeth [JUAREZ] right here, Elizabeth is going to give you a proposition also on that problem. She said all you got to do is get him to Mexico and she'll take care of him over there." CHS1 asked, "She will?" and GONZALES replied, "Yes, that's why she's coming."

Approximately one hour, 20 minutes into GONZALES' and CHS1's meeting at Banbu Sushi Bar and Grill, JUAREZ joined them. JUAREZ said that all CHS1 needed to do was to get N.M. down to Mexico and she would take care of the rest. JUAREZ and GONZALES said a lot of people have it out for N.M. so nothing would come back on RAZUKI. GONZALES said she wanted to watch and wanted N.M. to know that it had come from them [GONZALES and RAZUKI], but JUAREZ cautioned GONZALES shouldn't watch because it would be gruesome and haunt her. JUAREZ said this "wasn't her first rodeo" and went on to talk about a previous incident involving a female from Vista, CA, who was drugged and kidnapped. CHS1, GONZALES, and JUAREZ discussed a cost of \$2,000 for the job. CHS1 clarified whether GONZALES and JUAREZ wanted this to happen in the United States or Mexico. JUAREZ said, "No, I don't want it done here [in the United States]." GONZALES added, "No, let's do it in Mexico because we can't be charged in the US. Let's do it in Mexico in case anything comes back to us." JUAREZ said, "In Mexico it's easier to make things go away. You pay for your freedom."

GONZALES and JUAREZ said they wanted to "put the turkey up to roast before

Thanksgiving." After the meeting, CHS1 positively identified a driver's license photo of

ELIZABETH JUAREZ as the individual that joined them and talked of the kidnapping and

murder of N.M. This is the same individual observed by FBI agents as joining the meeting as well. GONZALES advised that RAZUKI often referred to N.M. as "the midget" and near the end of the dinner, JUAREZ handed CHS1 her cellphone to take a picture of GONZALES and JUAREZ and said, "You can take a picture of us when we were going to get rid of the midget [decided to kidnap and kill N.M.]."

After dinner, CHS1 called GONZALES and confirmed that CHS1 could kidnap and murder N.M. During the call, CHS1 told GONZALES to provide information on N.M.,

including his address, what car he drives, and other identifying information. GONZALES

asked to meet the next day so she could give CHS1 the information requested.

On or about November 9, 2018, GONZALES called CHS1 and asked CHS1 to meet her, RAZUKI, and JUAREZ. During the meeting, RAZUKI'S assistant, GIOVANNA CONTRERAS, was also present in the room, but did not participate in the conversation and had headphones in her ears most of the time. RAZUKI, GONZALES, and JUAREZ, discussed with CHS1 several loans they were trying to secure for their businesses, including cannabis dispensaries, as well as RAZUKI's frustration with the ongoing civil suit with N.M. At times during the meeting, RAZUKI went to the other side of the room to work, though CHS1 believes it was close enough to overhear the continued conversation between CHS1, GONZALES, and JUAREZ. GONZALES asked CHS1 if CHS1 needed money [for the kidnapping of N.M.] and said she would go get \$1,000, but asked if CHS1 wanted the full payment instead. CHS1 indicated that \$1,000 fine for the time being and GONZALES went to the Goldn Bloom Dispensary and returned with \$1,000 cash. Surveillance agents observed GONZALES walk to the Goldn Bloom Dispensary across the street and return.

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After the meeting, CHS1 provided agents with \$1000 cash provided by GONZALES as well as an envelope with a piece of paper inside, which had also been provided by GONZALES. The paper had two business addresses for N.M. according to GONZALES in a later meeting.

On or about November 13, 2018, GONZALES contacted CHS1 again via phone and informed CHS1 that RAZUKI and GONZALES would be with N.M. in court at the Hall of Justice located at 330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA. GONZALES requested CHS1 join them so CHS1 could see N.M. in person. CHS1 declined going into the courtroom, but agreed to stand outside the building and wait for N.M. to exit. While inside the Hall of Justice, GONZALES took a picture of N.M. with her phone and sent it to CHS1 and then called CHS1 and described what N.M. was wearing at the hearing. GONZALES exited the Hall of Justice and met with CHS1 to further discuss the description of N.M., which was recorded. During this meeting, GONZALES explained that "10605 Roselle St." and "9212 Mira Est. Ct 218 SD 92126" were locations of businesses N.M. manages. She did not specifically explain the address, "2815 Camino Del Rio S. #124 San Diego, CA 92108." According to GONZALES, the information on the envelope and back of the paper, was to assist CHS1 in locating N.M. for the kidnapping and murder in Mexico. GONZALES also stated during the meeting "if they take him now, it's gunna be good." GONZALES went back into the courthouse and provided CHS1 with updates as N.M. was departing the Hall of Justice to ensure CHS1 observed N.M. as he left. GONZALES told CHS1 that N.M. would be exiting the courthouse and that GONZALES, RAZUKI, JUAREZ, and their attorney would exit after him. FBI agents observed N.M exit the courthouse after CHS1 had been told this and agents observed RAZUKI, GONZALES, and JUAREZ proceeded on foot to the vehicle they arrived in and departed.

In an interview with FBI on November 15, 2018, N.M. advised that he had invested in real estate with RAZUKI in order to lease buildings to various entities — mainly marijuana dispensaries. Later on November 15, 2018, CHS1 met with RAZUKI, which

was recorded and surveilled by FBI agents. CHS1 said, "I took care of it." RAZUKI replied, "So he will take care of it, or it's done?" CHS1 replied, "Done." RAZUKI quickly changed the subject to discuss other business investments and pending loans. Later in the conversation, CHS1 said, "Well, when I talked to what's her name, she said that she wanted to have proof. Do you want to see it, or are you ok with it?" RAZUKI replied, "No, I'm ok with it. I don't want to see it." Shortly thereafter, CHS1 requested the remainder of the agreed-upon payment and RAZUKI directed CHS1 to follow up with GONZALES for payment.

On November 15, 2018, GONZALES was arrested and advised of her Miranda rights and agreed to speak with agents. During her interview, GONZALES admitted the existence of the ongoing civil lawsuit between N.M. and RAZUKI, GONZALES, and JUAREZ, but denied involvement in any conspiracy to kidnap and kill N.M.

On November 16, 2018, JUAREZ was arrested and advised of her Miranda rights and agreed to speak with agents. JUAREZ admitted to having the meetings and conversations about kidnapping and killing N.M., but said she didn't think the group would actually go through with it.

On November 16, 2018, RAZUKI was arrested and advised of his Miranda rights and agreed to speak with agents. During his interview, RAZUKI admitted the existence of the ongoing civil lawsuit between N.M. and RAZUKI, GONZALES, and JUAREZ involving approximately \$40 million. RAZUKI heard that N.M. was missing, but thought it was a joke and denied involvement in any conspiracy to kidnap and kill N.M.

# EXHIBIT "C"

I.

### SUMMARY OF THE UNITED STATES RECOMMENDATIONS

Defendants RAZUKI, GONZALES, and JUAREZ have pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Kidnap, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1201. Defendants RAZUKI and GONZALES' guideline ranges are 70 to 87 months, and JUAREZ' is 57 to 71 months. The factors under 18 U.S.C. §3553(a) weigh in favor of an 87-month sentence for RAZUKI and GONZALES, and a 71-month sentence for JUAREZ.

II.

### THE OFFENSE CONDUCT

In September 2018, RAZUKI and GONZALES met with a Confidential Human Source (CHS) requesting CHS arrange to kill one of their business associates, N.M. According to RAZUKI and GONZALES, they had invested in multiple properties and business ventures together and were now involved in a civil dispute over their assets. RAZUKI and GONZALES told CHS that they wanted CHS to "shoot him [N.M.] in the face," "to take him to Mexico and have him whacked," or kill him in some other way. RAZUKI and GONZALES provided CHS a picture of N.M., which CHS provided to the FBI.



Photo of N.M. provided to CHS by RAZUKI and GONZALES in September 2018.

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On or about November 5, 2018, CHS met with GONZALES at The Great Maple in San Diego, CA. During the meeting, GONZALES asked if CHS could "get rid of Salam's [RAZUKI] other little problem, [N.M.], because it looks like they're going to appeal.... I would love for him [N.M.] to go to TJ and get lost. Just leave him over there." GONZALES said the civil dispute between her, RAZUKI, and N.M. was over \$44 million dollars. GONZALES went on to say, "It's no joke, Salam [RAZUKI] has a lot of money tied up right now, and he's paying attorney fees. You need to get rid of this asshole [N.M.], he's costing me too much money!" GONZALES wanted this to occur before the next court date in their civil suit scheduled on or about November 15, 2018. At a certain point during the conversation, a server was close to their table and GONZALES said, "You don't have to kill him, you don't have to put him off the face of the earth." Despite her words at the time, GONZALES was making a slashing movement across her neck indicating she wanted N.M. to be killed. During the conversation, GONZALES advised that there was no reason to involve RAZUKI in planning for the kidnapping of N.M. because "I am the one with the balls, any time they [business partners, including RAZUKI] have a problem, they come after me ... they say Sylvia is like a little ... honey badger ... they're like send the honey badger after them."

On November or about 8, 2018, CHS met with GONZALES at Banbu Sushi Bar and Grill in La Mesa, CA. At the outset of the meeting, GONZALES continued to complain about N.M. and the ongoing civil lawsuit. According to GONZALES, another individual was coming, later identified as JUAREZ, to talk about how to handle N.M. GONZALES said, "Elizabeth [JUAREZ] right here, Elizabeth is going to give you a proposition also on that problem. She said all you got to do is get him to Mexico and she'll take care of him over there." CHS asked, "She will?" and GONZALES replied, "Yes, that's why she's coming."

Approximately one hour, 20 minutes into GONZALES' and CHS's meeting at Banbu Sushi Bar and Grill, JUAREZ joined them. JUAREZ said that all CHS needed to

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do was to get N.M. down to Mexico and she would take care of the rest. JUAREZ and GONZALES said a lot of people have it out for N.M. so nothing would come back on RAZUKI. GONZALES said she wanted to watch and wanted N.M. to know that it had come from them [GONZALES and RAZUKI], but JUAREZ cautioned GONZALES shouldn't watch because it would be gruesome and haunt her. JUAREZ said this "wasn't her first rodeo" and went on to talk about a previous incident involving a female from Vista, CA, who was drugged and kidnapped. CHS, GONZALES, and JUAREZ discussed a cost of \$2,000 for the job. CHS clarified whether GONZALES and JUAREZ wanted this to happen in the United States or Mexico. JUAREZ said, "No, I don't want it done here [in the United States]." GONZALES added, "No, let's do it in Mexico because we can't be charged in the US. Let's do it in Mexico in case anything comes back to us." JUAREZ said, "In Mexico it's easier to make things go away. You pay for your freedom." GONZALES and JUAREZ said they wanted to "put the turkey up to roast before Thanksgiving." After the meeting, CHS positively identified a driver's license photo of Elizabeth JUAREZ as the individual that joined them and talked of the kidnapping and murder of N.M. This is the same individual observed by FBI agents as joining the meeting as well. GONZALES advised that RAZUKI often referred to N.M. as "the midget" and near the end of the dinner, JUAREZ handed CHS her cellphone to take a picture of GONZALES and JUAREZ and said, "You can take a picture of us when we were going to get rid of the midget [decided to kidnap and kill N.M.]."



The photo GONZALES requested to have taken by CHS at the conclusion of the meeting at Banbu Sushi.

After dinner, CHS called GONZALES and confirmed that CHS could kidnap and murder N.M. During the call, CHS told GONZALES to provide information on N.M., including his address, what car he drives, and other identifying information. GONZALES asked to meet the next day so she could give CHS the information requested.

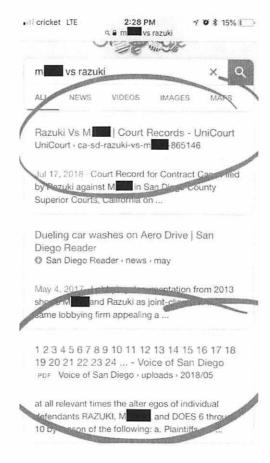
On or about November 9, 2018, GONZALES called CHS and asked CHS to meet her, RAZUKI, and JUAREZ. During the meeting, RAZUKI, GONZALES, and JUAREZ, discussed with CHS several loans they were trying to secure for their businesses, including cannabis dispensaries, as well as RAZUKI's frustration with the ongoing civil suit with N.M. At times during the meeting, RAZUKI went to the other side of the room to work, though CHS believes it was close enough to overhear the continued conversation between CHS, GONZALES, and JUAREZ. GONZALES asked CHS if CHS needed money [for the kidnapping of N.M.] and said she would go get \$1,000 but asked if CHS wanted the full payment instead. CHS indicated that \$1,000 fine for the time being and GONZALES went to the Goldn Bloom Dispensary and returned with \$1,000 cash. Surveillance agents observed GONZALES walk to the Goldn Bloom Dispensary across the street and return.

At the same time that GONZALES and RAZUKI were meeting with CHS on November 9, 2018, RAZUKI was exchanging messages with JUAREZ in which RAZUKI pressed for updates about work related to N.M. that RAZUKI had commissioned.

From	Direction	Body	Timestamp-Time
+16197196661 Salam RAZUKI	Outgoing	Any updated today	9/25/2018 2:13:59 PM(UTC-7)
+16196461241	Incoming	Yes the computer guy is working on it	9/25/2018 2:14:25 PM(UTC-7)
+16197196661 Salam RAZUKI	Outgoing	Please ASAP	9/25/2018 2:15:03 PM(UTC-7)
+16197196661 Salam RAZUKI	Outgoing	Nothing yet	9/25/2018 2:27:22 PM(UTC-7)
+16196461241	Incoming	He is working on it now	9/25/2018 2:27:56 PM(UTC-7)

+16197196661 Salam RAZUKI	Outgoing	Ok let him clear all please	9/25/2018 2:28:27 PM(UTC- 7)
+16196461241	Incoming	Construction of the constr	9/25/2018 2:29:08 PM(UTC-7)
+16196461241	Incoming	That's what he is working on	9/25/2018 2:29:11 PM(UTC-7)
+16197196661 Salam RAZUKI	Outgoing	Let him clear everything under my name profile that look bad	9/25/2018 2:31:27 PM(UTC-7)
+16196461241	Incoming	Ok babe	9/25/2018 2:36:30 PM(UTC-7)

Text messages exchanged between RAZUKI and JUAREZ while RAZUKI and GONZALES were meeting with CHS.



A closeup of the attachment that JUAREZ sent to RAZUKI during the November 9, 2018 text message exchange.

After the meeting, CHS provided agents with \$1000 cash provided by GONZALES as well as an envelope with a piece of paper inside, which had also been provided by GONZALES. The paper had two business addresses for N.M. according to GONZALES in a later meeting.

Photo of the \$1000 provided by GONZALES to CHS at the conclusion of the November 9, 2018 meeting.

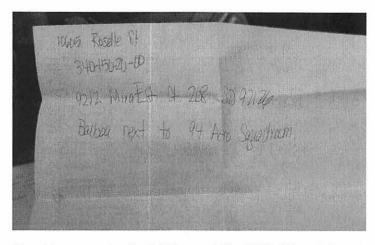


Photo of the addresses associated with N.M. provided by GONZALES to CHS on November 9, 2018.

On or about November 13, 2018, GONZALES contacted CHS again via phone and informed CHS that RAZUKI and GONZALES would be with N.M. in court at the Hall of Justice located at 330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA. GONZALES requested CHS join

them so CHS could see N.M. in person. CHS declined going into the courtroom, but agreed

to stand outside the building and wait for N.M. to exit. While inside the Hall of Justice.

GONZALES took a picture of N.M. with her phone and sent it to CHS and then called

CHS and described what N.M. was wearing at the hearing.

Old man is Salams
The other belongs to plantiff

Is N in that room?

We all are
In a conference
Is that on second floor

Third

Can you take Pic of n

Text message exchange between GONZALES and CHS on November 13, 2018.

GONZALES exited the Hall of Justice and met with CHS to further discuss the description of N.M., which was recorded. According to GONZALES, the information on the envelope and back of the paper provided on November 9, 2018, was to assist CHS in locating N.M. for the kidnapping and murder in Mexico. GONZALES also stated during the meeting "if they take him now, it's gunna be good." GONZALES went back into the courthouse and provided CHS with updates as N.M. was departing the Hall of Justice to ensure CHS observed N.M. as he left. GONZALES told CHS that N.M. would be exiting the courthouse and that GONZALES, RAZUKI, JUAREZ, and their attorney would exit after him. FBI agents observed N.M exit the courthouse after CHS had been told this and

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agents observed RAZUKI, GONZALES, and JUAREZ proceeded on foot to the vehicle they arrived in and departed.

On November 15, 2018, CHS met with RAZUKI, which was recorded and surveilled by FBI agents. CHS said, "I took care of it." RAZUKI replied, "So he will take care of it, or it's done?" CHS replied, "Done." RAZUKI quickly changed the subject to discuss other business investments and pending loans. Later in the conversation, CHS said, "Well, when I talked to what's her name, she said that she wanted to have proof. Do you want to see it, or are you ok with it?" RAZUKI replied, "No, I'm ok with it. I don't want to see it." Shortly thereafter, CHS requested the remainder of the agreed-upon payment and RAZUKI directed CHS to follow up with GONZALES for payment.

On November 15, 2018, GONZALES was arrested. On November 16, 2018, JUAREZ and RAZUKI were arrested.

#### II.

# **ARGUMENT**

When taking into consideration the factors under 18 U.S.C. §3553(a) and the departures allowed under the United States Sentencing Guidelines ("USSG" or the "Guidelines"), a sentence on the high-end of the guideline range is warranted for all three defendants.

"A substantively reasonable sentence is one that is sufficient, but not greater than necessary to accomplish § 3553(a)(2)'s sentencing goals." *United States v. Crowe*, 563 F.3d 969, 977 n.16 (9th Cir. 2009) (quoting 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)). After determining the advisory sentencing range, district courts are expected to consider the factors specifically identified in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) before imposing a sentence. *See Cunningham v.* 

The United States has filed Sentencing Summary Charts ("SSC(s)") for each defendant separately. *See* ECF Nos. 191 (RAZUKI SSC), 192 (GONZALES SSC), and 193 (JUAREZ SSC).

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consider the Guidelines range as well as sentencing goals enumerated in § 3553(a)).

A. The Sentencing Factors Under 18 U.S.C. §3553(a) Support A High-end

California, 549 U.S. 270, 286-87 (2007) (noting sentencing courts are "obliged" to

# A. The Sentencing Factors Under 18 U.S.C. §3553(a) Support A High-end Sentence In This Case

The Sentencing Guidelines are an important factor that must be calculated and considered by the Court in fashioning an appropriate sentence, but they are only one of the factors set out in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) that ultimately guide a district court in the exercise of its discretion. See United States v. Sylvester Norman Knows His Gun, III, 438 F.3d 913, 918 (9th Cir. 2006). As reflected in the United States SSCs, Defendants RAZUKI and GONZALES' guideline ranges are 70 to 87 months, and JUAREZ' is 57 to 71 months. The following 3553(a) factors weigh in favor of an 87-month sentence for RAZUKI and GONZALES, and a 71-month sentence for JUAREZ:

## 1) The Nature and Circumstances of the Offense Under §3553(a)(1)

The nature and circumstances of the offense are extremely aggravating. All three Defendants conspired and planned to have N.M. kidnapped, taken to Mexico, and intimidated or murdered. Each Defendant now attempts to distance his/herself from the possibility [and likelihood] that N.M. could have been killed through the execution of their plan. Those efforts reflect a realization that their conduct justifies a high-end sentence. Their efforts are also in vain because the evidence supports the fact that their plan included the possibility of N.M.'s murder, and their acquiescence and support of his killing, should that have occurred. The following evidence highlighted in the Defendants' PSRs, clearly shows their desire, or at the very least the likelihood, that N.M. could/would/should be killed:

1. According to the CHS, on October 17, 2018, RAZUKI and GONZALES asked CHS to kill N.M. and that they wanted CHS to "shoot him [N.M.] in the face," "to take him to Mexico and *have him whacked*," or to kill N.M. in some other way. ECF Nos. 173-5 at 4, par. 4 (emphasis added).

- 2. On November 5, 2018, during a recorded conversation, GONZALES stated I would love for him [N.M.] to go to TJ and get lost. *Just leave him over there*" and that CHS "need[ed] *to get rid of* this asshole [N.M.], he's costing me too much money!" *Id.* at 5, par. 10 (emphasis added).
- 3. Also on November 5, 2018, while verbally claiming that N.M. did not need to die, "GONZALES made a slashing motion across her neck, appearing to indicate she wanted N.M. to be killed." *Id.* at 5, par. 11;
- 4. On November 8, 2018, during a recorded conversation, GONZALES (while waiting for JUAREZ to arrive, stated "Elizabeth [JUAREZ] right here, Elizabeth is going to give you a proposition also on that problem. She said all you got to do is get him to Mexico and she'll take care of him over there." *Id.* at 6, par. 13;
- 5. Also on November 8, 2018, JUAREZ confirmed that the CHS need only get N.M. down to Mexico, and that she would take care of the rest. JUAREZ and GONZALES indicated that a lot of people "had it out" for N.M., so nothing would "come back on RAZUKI." GONZALES stated she "wanted to watch" and wanted N.M. to know "it" came from the Defendants. JUAREZ cautioned GONZALES not to "watch" because it would be "gruesome" and would "haunt" GONZALES. *Id.* at 5, par. 14. Although Defendants now claim that they were merely hoping to scare or intimidate N.M., "watch[ing]" a scare tactic in this context makes no sense. Common sense dictates that intimidation alone is not "gruesome," nor is going to be "haunt[ing]" if someone watches it. Murder, on the other hand, can certainly fit those descriptions and warnings.
- 6. Also on November 8, 2018, JUAREZ, while explaining the benefits of committing such a heinous act in Mexico, stated, "In Mexico it's easier to

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United States' Sentencing Memorandum

- make things go away." Id. at 5, par. 14 (emphasis added). Intimidation alone does not logically fit this comment. Murder, on the other hand, does;
- 7. Also on November 8, 2018, the CHS called GONZALES to discuss the kidnapping and murder of N.M. Id. at 5, par. 16;
- 8. On November 15, 2018, the CHS and RAZUKI met after the CHS had completed his "gruesome" assignment. During the meeting, CHS told RAZUKI that N.M. had been "taken care of" and offered to show RAZUKI a picture of N.M. as proof. RAZUKI declined to look at the picture but directed CHS to meet with GONZALES to obtain payment. Again, common sense does not support Defendants' claims that their intent was merely to intimidate, and nothing more. A "picture" of someone being only intimidated does not fit the context of the many conversations the Defendants had with the CHS. A picture of a murdered N.M., on the other hand, does.

The motivation for the Defendants was purely financial, which is additional aggravation. Many times in the criminal justice system, violence leads to further violence in the form of unjustifiable retaliation. Here, the Defendants were motivated by money, and their brazen plan to kidnap, intimidate, and possibly murder N.M. was also fueled by money.

# 2) The Need For the Sentence Imposed Under §3553(a)(2)

A high-end sentence is necessary under this factor because it would reflect the seriousness of the offense, promote respect for the law, provide just punishment for the offense, afford adequate deterrence, protect the public from further crimes of the Defendants. As to the reflecting the seriousness of the offense, and providing just punishments for the Defendants' acts, the United States relies on the evidence and arguments above. Deterrence and protecting the public, however, are especially important considerations in this case. As all of the sentencing filings have clearly demonstrated, this case is connected to significant civil litigation, and has gotten the attention of many in the

Case 3:18-cr-05260-CAB Document 194 Filed 02/02/23 PageID.1165 Page 13 o	Ca	ase 3:18-cr-05260-CAB	Document 194	Filed 02/02/23	PageID.1165	Page 13 of
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business community here in San Diego. That, coupled with the power of the media (social and mainstream), reveals that the Court's sentence for the Defendants' conduct is going to be examined. A high-end sentence would adequately reflect the Defendants' conduct, and would be sufficient, but not greater than necessary.

III.

### **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, the Government requests that Defendants RAZUKI and GONAZLES be sentenced to 87 months, and Defendant JUAREZ be sentenced to 71 months.

DATED: February 2, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

RANDY S. GROSSMAN United States Attorney

s/ Fred Sheppard
FRED SHEPPARD
Assistant U.S. Attorney

s/ Shital H. Thakkar SHITAL H. THAKKAR Assistant U.S. Attorney

s/ Derek Ko
DEREK KO
Assistant U.S. Attorney

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# EXHIBIT "D"

Case 3:18-cr-05	260-CAB Document 208	Filed 02/09/23 Page	D.1220 Page 1 of 5
AO 245B (CASD Rev. 1/19) Jud	lament in a Criminal Casa		FILED
AO 243B (CASD Rev. 1/19) Juc	ignicit ili a Criminal Case		
	UNITED STATES	DISTRICT COUR	FEB 0 9 2023
		ICT OF CALIFORNIA	CLERK. U.S. DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
I NITED OTATE			
	ES OF AMERICA V.	(For Offenses Committed On	IMINAL CURE (
		Case Number: 18-CR-	5260 CAD
SALAM R	RAZUKI (1)	Case Number: 16-CR-	5200-CAD
		DANA M. GRIMES Defendant's Attorney	
USM Number	73015-298	201011 <b>-11</b> 10 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
□ -			
THE DEFENDANT:			
pleaded guilty to count(s)	TWO (2) OF THE TWO	O-COUNT INFORMATIO	<u>N</u>
☐ was found guilty on count	(s)		
after a plea of not guilty.	djudged guilty of such count(s), w	hich involve the following offer	uco(c).
		men involve the following offer	Count
Title & Section 18 USC 1201(c)	Nature of Offense CONSPIRACY TO KIDNAF	•	Number(s)
,			-
•	•		
The defendant is sentenced	d as provided in pages 2 through	5 of this ju	doment.
	ant to the Sentencing Reform Act of		
☐ The defendant has been fo	and not guilty on count(s)		
☐ Count(s) ONE (1) OF T	THE INDICTMENT is	dismissed on the motio	n of the United States.
Assessment: \$100.00	<del></del>		
⊠ _			
☐ JVTA Assessment*: \$			
	rafficking Act of 2015, Pub. L. No.	. 114-22.	
No fine      □			, included herein.
	at the defendant must notify the	e United States Attorney for	this district within 30 days of any
			ecial assessments imposed by this urt and United States Attorney of
	efendant's economic circumsta		art and Omica States Intomey of
		Fahmuam 10 2022	
		February 9, 2023 Date of Imposition of Senter	nce
		/\\	
		HON. Cathy Ann Bencive	engo
		UNITED STATES DIS	

	NDANT: NUMBER	SALAM RAZUK : 18-CR-5260-CAE	• •		Judgment - Page 2 of 5		
		s hereby committed to the	IMPRISC custody of the Federal	<b>DNMENT</b> eral Bureau of Prisons to be imprison	ned for a total term of:		
84 M	ONTHS.						
		imposed pursuant to T t makes the following r		n 1326(b). To the Bureau of Prisons:			
	The defe	ndant is remanded to th	ne custody of the U	Inited States Marshal.			
	The defe	ndant must surrender to	the United States	Marshal for this district:			
	□ at _		_ A.M.	on			
	□ as n	otified by the United S	tates Marshal.				
	The defendant must surrender for service of sentence at the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons:						
	on or before April 24, 2023, as directed by Bureau of Prisons for evaluation for Level IV facility.						
	□ as n	otified by the United S	tates Marshal.				
	as notified by the Probation or Pretrial Services Office.						
	RETURN						
I hav	e execute	d this judgment as follo	ows:				
	Defendant o	delivered on		to			
at _		·	, with a certified				
				UNITED STATES MARSHA	AL		
		Ву	D	EPUTY UNITED STATES MA	RSHAL		

**DEFENDANT:** 

SALAM RAZUKI(1)

Judgment - Page 3 of 5

**CASE NUMBER:** 

18-CR-5260-CAB

#### SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment, the defendant will be on supervised release for a term of: FIVE (5) YEARS.

#### MANDATORY CONDITIONS

- 1. The defendant must not commit another federal, state or local crime.
- 2. The defendant must not unlawfully possess a controlled substance.
- 3. The defendant must not illegally possess a controlled substance. The defendant must refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. The defendant must submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter as determined by the court. Testing requirements will not exceed submission of more than 4 drug tests per month during the term of supervision, unless otherwise ordered by the court.
  - The above drug testing condition is suspended, based on the court's determination that the defendant poses a low risk of future substance abuse. (check if applicable)
- 4. The defendant must make restitution in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663 and 3663A or any other statute authorizing a sentence of restitution. (check if applicable)
- 5. A The defendant must cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer. (check if applicable)
- 6. The defendant must comply with the requirements of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C. § 20901, et seq.) as directed by the probation officer, the Bureau of Prisons, or any state sex offender registration agency in the location where the defendant resides, works, is a student, or was convicted of a qualifying offense. (check if applicable)
- 7. The defendant must participate in an approved program for domestic violence. (check if applicable)

The defendant must comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this court as well as with any other conditions on the attached page.

DEFENDANT: SALAM RAZUKI (1)

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18-CR-5260-CAB

#### STANDARD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

As part of the defendant's supervised release, the defendant must comply with the following standard conditions of supervision. These conditions are imposed because they establish the basic expectations for the defendant's behavior while on supervision and identify the minimum tools needed by probation officers to keep informed, report to the court about, and bring about improvements in the defendant's conduct and condition.

- 1. The defendant must report to the probation office in the federal judicial district where they are authorized to reside within 72 hours of their release from imprisonment, unless the probation officer instructs the defendant to report to a different probation office or within a different time frame.
- After initially reporting to the probation office, the defendant will receive instructions from the court or the probation officer about how and when the defendant must report to the probation officer, and the defendant must report to the probation officer as instructed.
- 3. The defendant must not knowingly leave the federal judicial district where the defendant is authorized to reside without first getting permission from the court or the probation officer.
- 4. The defendant must answer truthfully the questions asked by their probation officer.
- 5. The defendant must live at a place approved by the probation officer. If the defendant plans to change where they live or anything about their living arrangements (such as the people living with the defendant), the defendant must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, the defendant must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
- 6. The defendant must allow the probation officer to visit them at any time at their home or elsewhere, and the defendant must permit the probation officer to take any items prohibited by the conditions of their supervision that he or she observes in plain view.
- 7. The defendant must work full time (at least 30 hours per week) at a lawful type of employment, unless the probation officer excuses the defendant from doing so. If the defendant does not have full-time employment the defendant must try to find full-time employment, unless the probation officer excuses the defendant from doing so. If the defendant plans to change where the defendant works or anything about their work (such as their position or their job responsibilities), the defendant must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer at least 10 days in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, the defendant must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
- 8. The defendant must not communicate or interact with someone they know is engaged in criminal activity. If the defendant knows someone has been convicted of a felony, they must not knowingly communicate or interact with that person without first getting the permission of the probation officer.
- 9. If the defendant is arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer, the defendant must notify the probation officer within 72 hours.
- 10. The defendant must not own, possess, or have access to a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or dangerous weapon (i.e., anything that was designed, or was modified for, the specific purpose of causing bodily injury or death to another person such as nunchakus or tasers).
- 11. The defendant must not act or make any agreement with a law enforcement agency to act as a confidential human source or informant without first getting the permission of the court.
- 12. If the probation officer determines the defendant poses a risk to another person (including an organization), the probation officer may require the defendant to notify the person about the risk and the defendant must comply with that instruction. The probation officer may contact the person and confirm that the defendant notified the person about the risk.
- 13. The defendant must follow the instructions of the probation officer related to the conditions of supervision.

**DEFENDANT:** 

SALAM RAZUKI (1)

Judgment - Page 5 of 5

CASE NUMBER:

18-CR-5260-CAB

#### SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

- 1. Submit your person, property, house, residence, vehicle, papers, [computers (as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1030(e)(1)), other electronic communications or data storage devices or media,] or office, to a search conducted by a United States Probation Officer. Failure to submit to a search may be grounds for revocation of release. The officer must warn any other occupants that the premises may be subject to searches pursuant to this condition. An officer may conduct a search pursuant to this condition only when reasonable suspicion exists that the offender has violated a condition of his supervision and that the areas to be searched contain evidence of this violation. Any search must be conducted at a reasonable time and in a reasonable manner.
- 2. Not have any contact, direct or indirect, either telephonically, visually, verbally or through written material, or through any third-party communication, with N.M. or N.M.'s family, without prior approval of the probation officer or through counsel in regard to the civil lawsuit.

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