

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW
YORK

-against-

CESAR GUZMAN A/K/A “FUEGO”,
ALLAN NUNEZ A/K/A “JOKER”
A/K/A “JOKA”, and
DARRELL COLON A/K/A “BISHOP”,

Defendants.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Ind. Nos. 04350/2017 and
1932/2018

The people respectfully submit this statement of facts to supplement the Court’s review of the indictment in the above-captioned case.

This statement summarizes some of the evidence with regard to the defendants Louis Meza (“MEZA”), Cesar Guzman (“GUZMAN”), Allan Nunez (“NUNEZ”), and Darrell Colon (“COLON”), all of whom acted together to engage in the criminal scheme that is the subject matter of the indictment.

The instant indictment relates to activity that took place on November 4, 2017, in New York County and Bronx County. During this period, MEZA, GUZMAN, NUNEZ, and COLON, acted in concert in the kidnapping, armed robbery, and theft of more than \$1.8 million in Ether, a cryptocurrency.

According to the indictments, on November 4, 2017, MEZA arranged a meeting with an individual well known to him. Once the meeting concluded, MEZA told the victim that he had ordered a car service to take the victim home, and directed the victim toward a waiting minivan. Unbeknownst to the victim, MEZA was working with GUZMAN, who had recruited COLON, and NUNEZ to execute the robbery plan.

NUNEZ, acting as the supposed hired driver of the minivan, picked the victim up and began driving uptown. During the ride, COLON, who was hiding in the rear of vehicle, appeared suddenly, threatened the victim with what appeared to be a firearm, and demanded that the victim turn over his phone, wallet, house keys, and other property. The victim was subsequently held and driven around for approximately two hours, during which time the victim’s belongings were provided to MEZA.

While NUNEZ and COLON continued to drive around with the victim, GUZMAN and MEZA went to the victim’s apartment, where surveillance video revealed MEZA used the victim’s keys to gain entry. In the car, COLON then questioned the victim about the location of the saved passphrase associated with the

victim's digital wallet, and relayed the information to GUZMAN. GUZMAN, in turn, passed on the information to MEZA, who located the items in question and left the apartment building with a box containing the victim's digital wallet. Soon after obtaining the wallet, MEZA transferred approximately \$1.8 million in Ether to his personal account.

The victim was eventually able to escape from the vehicle and call 911.

Judicially-authorized search warrants were executed on a number of electronic devices, including cell phones, belonging to the defendants. A search of these phones revealed numerous inculpatory messages that had been sent via an end-to-end encrypted text message application as well as numerous inculpatory messages that GUZMAN had tried to delete.

In addition, both cell site data and license-plate reader records furnished additional evidence consistent with the respective defendants' participation in the events of November 4, 2017, as charged in the indictments.

On November 5, 2017, MEZA transferred the stolen Ether to an online account in his own name. In the days afterward, MEZA sold a portion of the Ether and transferred the proceeds to bank accounts he controlled. MEZA also converted the remaining Ether—which amounted to the bulk of the stolen currency—into two other cryptocurrencies.

MEZA was arrested in Jersey City, New Jersey, on November 22, 2017, following the execution of a search warrant, and later extradited to New York, where he was arraigned on Indictment 4350/2017. The totality of the remaining stolen cryptocurrency was later seized pursuant to the execution of additional search warrants.

GUZMAN, NUNEZ, and COLON were arrested on June 12, 2018, in connection with Indictment 1932/2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.
District Attorney

ADA James Vinocur

June 12, 2018
New York, NY