

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

RECEIVED AND FILED
CLERK'S OFFICE USDC PR
2022 JUL 14 PM 5:27

INDICTMENT

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

v.

[1] HAROLD CARRION BUTTER,
[2] JUSTINITA BUTTER, and
[3] MIRIAM DELGADO-SERRANO

Defendants.

CRIMINAL NO. 22- 320(FAB)

VIOLATION:

14 U.S.C. § 521(c)

18 U.S.C. §§ 2, 371, 1001(a)(2) & 1519

(FIFTEEN COUNTS)

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

COUNT ONE

Conspiracy to Communicate a False Distress Signal

From on or about June 28, 2022, up to on or about July 1, 2022, in the District of Puerto Rico and within the jurisdiction of this Court,

[1] HAROLD CARRION BUTTER,
[2] JUSTINITA BUTTER, and
[3] MIRIAM DELGADO-SERRANO

the defendants herein, did knowingly and intentionally combine, conspire, confederate and agree with each other, and with other diverse persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury to commit an offense defined in Title 14, United States Code, Section 521(c), that is: to cause the United States Coast Guard to attempt to save lives and property when no help was needed. All in violation of Title 14, United States Code, Section 521(c) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

COUNT TWO

Communicating a False Distress Signal

From on or about June 28, 2022, up to on or about July 1, 2022, in the District of Puerto Rico and within the jurisdiction of this Court,

**[1] HAROLD CARRION BUTTER,
[2] JUSTINITA BUTTER, and
[3] MIRIAM DELGADO-SERRANO**

the defendants herein, aiding and abetting each other, and other diverse persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury, did knowingly and intentionally cause the United States Coast Guard to attempt to save lives and property when no help was needed. All in violation of Title 14, United States Code, Section 521(c) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

COUNT THREE

False Statements

On or about June 28, 2022, in the District of Puerto Rico and within the jurisdiction of this Court,

[2] JUSTINITA BUTTER

the defendant herein, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard, an agency of the executive branch of the Government of the United States, did knowingly and willfully make materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and representations, that is: she falsely stated to United States Coast Guard personnel that she had been trying to call Harold Carrion Butter's cellular phone on the evening of June 28, 2022, and that he was not answering; knowing these statements and representations to be untrue. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2).

COUNT FOUR

False Statements

On or about June 29, 2022, in the District of Puerto Rico and within the jurisdiction of this Court,

[2] JUSTINITA BUTTER

the defendant herein, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard, an agency of the executive branch of the Government of the United States, did knowingly and willfully make materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and representations, that is: she falsely stated to United States Coast Guard personnel that Harold Carrion Butter did not have a phone; knowing these statements and representations to be untrue. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2).

COUNT FIVE

False Statements

On or about June 29, 2022, in the District of Puerto Rico and within the jurisdiction of this Court,

[3] MIRIAM DELGADO-SERRANO

the defendant herein, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard, an agency of the executive branch of the Government of the United States, did knowingly and willfully make materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and representations, that is: she falsely stated to United States Coast Guard personnel that Harold Carrion Butter did not have a phone, knowing these statements and representations to be untrue. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2).

COUNT SIX
False Statements

On or about June 29, 2022, in the District of Puerto Rico and within the jurisdiction of this Court,

[2] JUSTINITA BUTTER

the defendant herein, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard, an agency of the executive branch of the Government of the United States, did knowingly and willfully make materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and representations, that is: she falsely stated to United States Coast Guard personnel that Harold Carrion Butter could not be somewhere else other than lost at sea—having last seen him near the water at Poza de la Obispo, Arecibo, Puerto Rico, knowing these statements and representations to be untrue. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2).

COUNT SEVEN
False Statements

On or about June 29, 2022, in the District of Puerto Rico and within the jurisdiction of this Court,

[3] MIRIAM DELGADO-SERRANO

the defendant herein, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard, an agency of the executive branch of the Government of the United States, did knowingly and willfully make materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and representations, that is: she falsely stated to United States Coast Guard personnel that Harold Carrion Butter could not be somewhere else other than lost at sea—having last seen him near the water at Poza de la Obispo, Arecibo, Puerto Rico, knowing these statements and representations to be untrue. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2).

COUNT EIGHT

False Statements

On or about June 29, 2022, in the District of Puerto Rico and within the jurisdiction of this Court,

[2] JUSTINITA BUTTER

the defendant herein, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard, an agency of the executive branch of the Government of the United States, did knowingly and willfully make materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and representations, that is: she falsely stated to United States Coast Guard personnel that Harold Carrion Butter had to have either jumped or fallen into the water on the evening of June 29, 2022, knowing these statements and representations to be untrue. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2).

COUNT NINE

False Statements

On or about July 2, 2022, in the District of Puerto Rico and within the jurisdiction of this Court,

[2] JUSTINITA BUTTER

the defendant herein, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard Investigative Service, an agency of the executive branch of the Government of the United States, did knowingly and willfully make materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and representations, that is: she falsely stated to United States Coast Guard Investigative Service agents that she had not been in communication with Harold Carrion Butter since approximately one and a half hours prior to calling 9-1-1 on the evening of June 28, 2022 through July 1, 2022, knowing these statements and representations to be untrue. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2).

COUNT TEN
False Statements

On or about July 2, 2022, in the District of Puerto Rico and within the jurisdiction of this Court,

[3] MIRIAM DELGADO-SERRANO

the defendant herein, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard Investigative Service, an agency of the executive branch of the Government of the United States, did knowingly and willfully make materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and representations, that is: she falsely stated to United States Coast Guard Investigative Service agents that she had not been in communication with Harold Carrion Butter since approximately one and a half hours prior to Justinita Butter calling 9-1-1 on the evening of June 28, 2022 through July 1, 2022, knowing these statements and representations to be untrue. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2).

COUNT ELEVEN
False Statements

On or about July 2, 2022, in the District of Puerto Rico and within the jurisdiction of this Court,

[2] JUSTINITA BUTTER

the defendant herein, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard Investigative Service, an agency of the executive branch of the Government of the United States, did knowingly and willfully make materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and representations, that is: she falsely stated to United States Coast Guard Investigative Service agents that Harold Carrion Butter was lost in the water at Poza de la Obispo, Arecibo, Puerto Rico, knowing these statements and representations to be untrue. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2).

COUNT TWELVE

False Statements

On or about July 2, 2022, in the District of Puerto Rico and within the jurisdiction of this Court,

[2] JUSTINITA BUTTER

the defendant herein, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard Investigative Service, an agency of the executive branch of the Government of the United States, did knowingly and willfully make materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and representations, that is: falsely stated to United States Coast Guard Investigative Service agents that she did not delete phone records of phone calls and messages between June 28, 2022 and July 2, 2022 from her phone; knowing these statements and representations to be untrue. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2).

COUNT THIRTEEN

False Statements

On or about July 2, 2022, in the District of Puerto Rico and within the jurisdiction of this Court,

[3] MIRIAM DELGADO-SERRANO

the defendant herein, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard Investigative Service, an agency of the executive branch of the Government of the United States, did knowingly and willfully make materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and representations, that is: falsely stated to United States Coast Guard Investigative Service agents that she did not delete phone records of phone calls and messages between June 28, 2022 and July 2, 2022 from her phone; knowing these statements and representations to be untrue. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2).

COUNT FOURTEEN

Conspiracy to Destroy, Alter, or Falsify Records in Federal investigations

From on or about June 28, 2022, up to on or about July 2, 2022, in the District of Puerto

Rico and within the jurisdiction of this Court,

**[1] HAROLD CARRION BUTTER,
[2] JUSTINITA BUTTER, and
[3] MIRIAM DELGADO-SERRANO**

the defendants herein, did knowingly and intentionally combine, conspire, confederate and agree with each other, and with other diverse persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury to commit an offense defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1519, that is: knowingly altered, destroyed, mutilated, concealed, covered up, falsified, and made a false entry in a record, document, and tangible object with the intent to impede, obstruct, and influence the investigation and proper administration of a matter within the jurisdiction of a department and agency of the United States and in relation to and contemplation of such a matter, that is: purposefully deleted phone records and logs regarding phones calls between each other from June 28, 2022 to July 2, 2022. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1519 and 371.

[remainder of page left intentionally blank]

COUNT FIFTEEN

Destruction, Alteration, or Falsification of Records in Federal investigations

On or about June 28, 2022, and up to on or about July 2, 2022, in the District of Puerto

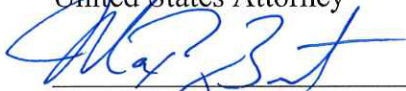
Rico and within the jurisdiction of this Court,

**[1] HAROLD CARRION BUTTER,
[2] JUSTINITA BUTTER, and
[3] MIRIAM DELGADO-SERRANO**

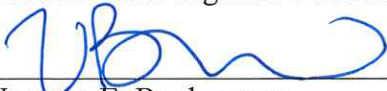
the defendants herein, aiding and abetting each other, and other diverse persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury, did commit an offense defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1519, that is: knowingly altered, destroyed, mutilated, concealed, covered up, falsified, and made a false entry in a record, document, and tangible object with the intent to impede, obstruct, and influence the investigation and proper administration of a matter within the jurisdiction of a department and agency of the United States and in relation to and contemplation of such a matter, that is: purposefully deleting phone records and logs regarding phones calls between each other between June 28, 2022 and July 2, 2022. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2 and 1519.

TRUE BILL

W. STEPHEN MULDROW
United States Attorney



Max J. Pérez-Bouret
Assistant United States Attorney, Chief
Transnational Organized Crime Section



Vanessa E. Bonhomme
Assistant United States Attorney, Deputy Chief
Transnational Organized Crime Section



Jordan H. Martin
Special Assistant United States Attorney

FOREPERSON

Date: 7/14/22