

FILED

June 03, 2024

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

BY: Jaemie Herndon
DEPUTY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V.

CASE NO. 5:21-CR-00533-FB-1

JUAN CARLOS MARTINEZ CECIAS
RODRIGUEZ

ORDER REGARDING SENTENCING AND JUDGMENT

If the seeds of compassion, planted in the fertile soil of the human spirit take root, the seedlings of empathy can grow and evolve to bear the fruit of restitution, healing, peace and justice for the victims of Defendant's crimes. Though the Court can impose some measure of justice, the former will not be likely. While Mr. Martinez's apologetic written and oral statements sound solid, they ring remorselessly hollow with the Court, given the lack of any significant reimbursement to his victims from Southeast Asia and Mexico and Defendant's continuing luxurious lifestyle up to the date of his sentencing. The Court's Arkansas grandmother would call it "living high on the hog," while the dreams of the Southeast Asian and Mexican victims of a life in the United States were shattered.

Following the example of Charles Ponzi, it does not appear the milk of human kindness flowed through Defendant's veins during the six years of his scheme taking advantage of his victims. Nor does it appear the religious teachings of his childhood upbringing regarding the Golden Rule took root, notwithstanding Mr. Martinez's admission that he would not want his 87-year-old mother to be similarly defrauded.

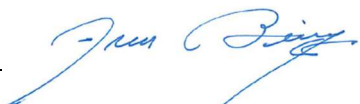
Accordingly, the Court sentences Juan Carlos Martinez Cecias Rodriguez to the maximum allowed under the plea agreement, to 90 months in federal prison, though the Court's sense of

righteous indignation would prefer the statutory maximum of 20 years. Though Defendant succumbed to the seduction and siren song of greed, the Court resists the temptation to invoke Dante Alighieri, for which Mr. Martinez should be eternally grateful. Restitution is ordered in the amount of \$29,302,952.99. The forfeiture and money judgment are granted. Defendant will serve three years of non-reporting supervised release after he is deported and will pay a \$100 assessment for the Victim of Crime Fund.

The Court does have a trickle of kindness milk for Defendant's eleven-year-old daughter so that she can spend time with her father before she misses seven years of birthdays and her high school graduation with him. Therefore, Defendant shall remain on bond with the additional condition that he will be under 24-hour house arrest. A judgment and commitment form will be forthcoming.

It is so ORDERED.

SIGNED this 3rd day of June, 2024.



UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE