

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

United States of America,	)	
	)	File No. 22-cr-124
Plaintiff,	)	(NEB/DTS)
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
Abdiaziz Shafii Farah(1),	)	Courtroom 13W
Mohamed Jama Ismail(2),	)	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Abdimajid Mohamed Nur(4),	)	Friday, June 7, 2024
Said Shafii Farah(5),	)	1:03 p.m.
Abdiwahab Maalim Aftin(6),	)	
Mukhtar Mohamed Shariff(7),	)	
Hayat Mohamed Nur(8),	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	
	)	

BEFORE THE HONORABLE PATRICK J. SCHILTZ
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CHIEF JUDGE

JURY TRIAL PROCEEDINGS - VERDICT - VOLUME XXX OF XXX

Court Reporter: RENEE A. ROGGE, RMR-CRR
United States Courthouse
300 South Fourth Street, Box 1005
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

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Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography;
Transcript produced by computer.

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APPEARANCES:

For Plaintiff: UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
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For Defendant BIRRELL LAW FIRM PLLC
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For Defendant SIEBEN & COTTER PLLC
Mohamed Jama BY: PATRICK L. COTTER
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For Defendant SAPONE & PETRILLO LLP
Abdimajid Mohamed BY: EDWARD V. SAPONE
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For Defendant Said MASLON LLP
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For Defendant KOCH & GARVIS
Abdiwahab Maalim BY: ANDREW S. GARVIS
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For Defendant Mukhtar GOETZ AND ECKLAND P.A.
Mohamed Shariff (7): BY: FREDERICK J. GOETZ
ANDREW H. MOHRING
KAITLYN C. FALK
615 First Avenue NE, #425
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413

APPEARANCES (Continued):

For Defendant Hayat
Mohamed Nur (8):

BRANDT KETTWICK DEFENSE PLLC
BY: MICHAEL J. BRANDT
NICOLE A. KETTWICK
2150 Third Avenue, #210
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* * *

IN OPEN COURT

(JURY NOT PRESENT)

THE COURT: Good afternoon. Please be seated.

The jury has informed us that we have a verdict in this case.

Obviously, I'm not Judge Brasel. Judge Brasel is in an airplane right now coming back from Washington, D.C., where she had to attend meetings. And she asked me to extend her apology that she can't be here in person, but she's asked me to take the verdicts for her.

I'd like to begin by having all the attorneys make their appearances.

And for the defense counsel, I'll note that your client is present in court.

So we'll start with the government.

MR. THOMPSON: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Joe Thompson, Harry Jacobs, Matthew Ebert, Chelsea Walcker and Dan Bobier on behalf of the United States.

THE COURT: Good afternoon.

And let's see. Mr. Birrell.

MR. ANDREW BIRRELL: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Andy Birrell appearing with Abdiaziz Farah, who is present before the court.

MR. COTTER: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Patrick Cotter appearing on behalf of Mohamed Ismail, present before

1 the court.

2 MS. FALK: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Kaitlyn
3 Falk stepping in on behalf of Edward Sapone and appearing
4 with Abdimajid Nur, who is present before the court.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Maybe we could just make a
6 record of why Mr. Sapone is not here.

7 MR. MOHRING: If I may, Your Honor?

8 THE COURT: Yes, Mr. Mohring.

9 MR. MOHRING: Andrew Mohring here with and on
10 behalf of Mukhtar Shariff.

11 Mr. Sapone was called away. He tried to get a
12 hearing that he had in New York postponed. That was not
13 possible. And so at his request, Kaitlyn Falk, who is part
14 of the defense team for Mukhtar Shariff, is sitting in his
15 place.

16 We've discussed these matters with both
17 Mr. Shariff and Mr. Nur. Without talking obviously about
18 anything relating to the case or the substance of the case,
19 they have agreed to allow us to proceed in this manner with
20 Ms. Falk sitting with Mr. Nur for purposes of receiving the
21 verdict --

22 THE COURT: All right.

23 MR. MOHRING: -- and me sitting with Mr. Shariff.

24 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Nur, that's all right
25 with you?

1 DEFENDANT ABDIMAJID MOHAMED NUR: Yes, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: You agree to that?

3 And, Mr. Shariff, that's all right with you?

4 DEFENDANT MUKHTAR MOHAMED SHARIFF: Yes, Your
5 Honor.

6 THE COURT: All right. All right. You can be
7 seated.

8 MR. SCHLEICHER: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
9 Steve Schleicher and Clayton Carlson appearing on behalf of
10 Said Farah, who is present.

11 MR. GARVIS: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Andrew
12 Garvis with my client Abdiwahab Maalim Aftin, who is
13 present.

14 THE COURT: All right.

15 MR. BRANDT: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Michael
16 Brandt and Nicole Kettwick on behalf of Hayat Nur, who is
17 present before you.

18 THE COURT: All right. I think at this point we
19 are ready to retrieve the jury.

20 Kristine, do you want to go retrieve the jury?

21 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Yes, Your Honor.

22

23 **IN OPEN COURT**

24 **(JURY PRESENT)**

25 THE COURT: Members of the jury, welcome back.

1 Please be seated.

2 So as you can tell, I'm not Judge Brasel. My name
3 is Patrick Schiltz. I'm the Chief Judge of the Federal
4 Court here in Minnesota.

5 Unfortunately, Judge Brasel is in an airplane
6 coming back from Washington, D.C., where she had to attend
7 some meetings that had been scheduled a long time in
8 advance. So she asked me to come in and take the verdict
9 for her.

10 Now, I don't see who has the envelopes. You do.
11 And, sorry, I don't know -- you're Juror Number 42?

12 FOREPERSON: Yes.

13 THE COURT: All right. Are you the foreperson of
14 this jury?

15 FOREPERSON: I am.

16 THE COURT: All right. And has the jury reached a
17 verdict in all of the cases?

18 FOREPERSON: We have.

19 THE COURT: And are the verdicts unanimous? Do
20 all the jurors agree?

21 FOREPERSON: Yes.

22 THE COURT: All right. Could you hand the
23 envelope to the court security officer?

24 All right. So, members of the jury, what I'm
25 going to be doing now is reading aloud your verdict forms.

1 And I would like you all to listen very carefully. It's
2 going to take a while. So you will have to listen carefully
3 for a while.

4 But when I'm done, I'm going to poll each one of
5 you by number and ask you to confirm that what I've read is
6 accurate, that it is your individual jury -- your individual
7 verdict, and in that way we can confirm that the verdicts
8 are unanimous. Okay?

9 Okay. So I will first read the verdict --

10 And the defendants and their attorneys may remain
11 seated while I'm reading the verdicts.

12 I will first read the verdict in the case of
13 United States of America versus Abdiaziz Shafii Farah,
14 Criminal Case Number 22-cr-0124(1).

15 With respect to Count 1, conspiracy to commit wire
16 fraud, we, the jury, find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii
17 Farah guilty.

18 With respect to Count 2, wire fraud, we, the jury,
19 find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah not guilty.

20 With respect to Count 5, wire fraud, we, the jury,
21 find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

22 With respect to Count 6, wire fraud, we, the jury,
23 find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

24 With respect to Count 7, wire fraud, we, the jury,
25 find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

1 With respect to Count 9, wire fraud, we, the jury,
2 find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

3 With respect to Count 10, wire fraud, we, the
4 jury, find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

5 With respect to Count 11, wire fraud, we, the
6 jury, find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

7 With respect to Count 13, conspiracy to commit
8 federal programs bribery, we, the jury, find the defendant
9 Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

10 With respect to Count 14, federal programs
11 bribery, we, the jury, find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii
12 Farah guilty.

13 With respect to Count 17, federal programs
14 bribery, we, the jury, find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii
15 Farah guilty.

16 With respect to Count 20, conspiracy to commit
17 money laundering, we, the jury, find the defendant Abdiaziz
18 Shafii Farah guilty.

19 With respect to Count 22, money laundering, we,
20 the jury, find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

21 With respect to Count 23, money laundering, we,
22 the jury, find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

23 With respect to Count 24, money laundering, we,
24 the jury, find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

25 With respect to Count 25, money laundering, we,

1 the jury, find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

2 With respect to Count 26, money laundering, we,
3 the jury, find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

4 With respect to Count 29, money laundering, we,
5 the jury, find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

6 With respect to Count 32, money laundering, we,
7 the jury, find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

8 With respect to Count 33, money laundering, we,
9 the jury, find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

10 With respect to Count 37, money laundering, we,
11 the jury, find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

12 With respect to Count 39, money laundering, we,
13 the jury, find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

14 With respect to Count 42, money laundering, we,
15 the jury, find the defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

16 And, finally, with respect to Count 43, false
17 statement in a passport application, we, the jury, find the
18 defendant Abdiaziz Shafii Farah guilty.

19 The verdict form is signed by the foreperson and
20 dated today's date, June 7th, 2024.

21 All right. I will next read the verdict in the
22 case of United States of America versus Mohamed Jama Ismail,
23 Criminal Number 22-cr-124.

24 With respect to Count 1, conspiracy to commit wire
25 fraud, we, the jury, find the defendant Mohamed Jama Ismail

1 guilty.

2 With respect to Count 2, wire fraud, we, the jury,
3 find the defendant Mohamed Jama Ismail not guilty.

4 With respect to Count 20, conspiracy to commit
5 money laundering, we, the jury, find the defendant Mohamed
6 Jama Ismail guilty.

7 And, finally, with respect to Count 28, money
8 laundering, we, the jury, find the defendant Mohamed Jama
9 Ismail guilty.

10 The verdict form is signed and dated today's date,
11 June 7th, 2024, and signed by the jurors' foreperson.

12 All right. I will next read the verdict form in
13 the case of United States of America versus Abdimajid
14 Mohamed Nur. The case is 22-cr-0124.

15 With respect to Count 1, conspiracy to commit wire
16 fraud, we, the jury, find the defendant Abdimajid Mohamed
17 Nur guilty.

18 With respect to Count 3, wire fraud, we, the jury,
19 find the defendant Abdimajid Mohamed Nur guilty.

20 With respect to Count 4, wire fraud, we, the jury,
21 find the defendant Abdimajid Mohamed Nur guilty.

22 With respect to Count 6, wire fraud, we, the jury,
23 find the defendant Abdimajid Mohamed Nur guilty.

24 With respect to Count 12, wire fraud, we, the
25 jury, find the defendant Abdimajid Mohamed Nur guilty.

1 With respect to Count 20, conspiracy to commit
2 money laundering, we, the jury, find the defendant Abdimajid
3 Mohamed Nur guilty.

4 With respect to Count 24, money laundering, we,
5 the jury, find the defendant Abdimajid Mohamed Nur not
6 guilty.

7 With respect to Count 25, money laundering, we,
8 the jury, find the defendant Abdimajid Mohamed Nur not
9 guilty.

10 With respect to Count 29, money laundering, we,
11 the jury, find the defendant Abdimajid Mohamed Nur not
12 guilty.

13 With respect to Count 34, money laundering, we,
14 the jury, find the defendant Abdimajid Mohamed Nur guilty.

15 With respect to Count 35, money laundering, we,
16 the jury, find the defendant Abdimajid Mohamed Nur guilty.

17 With respect to Count 38, money laundering, we,
18 the jury, find the defendant Abdimajid Mohamed Nur guilty.

19 And, finally, with respect to Count 41, money
20 laundering, we, the jury, find the defendant Abdimajid
21 Mohamed Nur guilty.

22 The verdict form is signed by the foreperson and
23 dated today's date, June 7th, 2024.

24 All right. I will next read the verdict in the
25 case of United States of America versus Said Shafii Farah.

1 With respect to Count 1, conspiracy to commit wire
2 fraud, we, the jury, find the defendant Said Shafii Farah
3 not guilty.

4 With respect to Count 12, wire fraud, we, the
5 jury, find the defendant Said Shafii Farah not guilty.

6 With respect to Count 13, conspiracy to commit
7 federal programs bribery, we, the jury, find the defendant
8 Said Shafii Farah not guilty.

9 With respect to Count 16, federal programs
10 bribery, we, the jury, find the defendant Said Shafii Farah
11 not guilty.

12 With respect to Count 18, federal programs
13 bribery, we, the jury, find the defendant Said Shafii Farah
14 not guilty.

15 With respect to Count 19, federal programs
16 bribery, we, the jury, find the defendant Said Shafii Farah
17 not guilty.

18 With respect to Count 20, conspiracy to commit
19 money laundering, we, the jury, find the defendant Said
20 Shafii Farah not guilty.

21 With respect to Count 21, money laundering, we,
22 the jury, find the defendant Said Shafii Farah not guilty.

23 And, finally, with respect to Count 40, money
24 laundering, we, the jury, find the defendant Said Shafii
25 Farah not guilty.

1 The verdict form is signed by the foreperson and
2 dated today's date, June 7th, 2024.

3 All right. I will next read the verdict form in
4 the case of United States of America versus Abdiwahab Maalim
5 Aftin. The case is Criminal Number 22-cr-124.

6 With respect to Count 1, conspiracy to commit wire
7 fraud, we, the jury, find the defendant Abdiwahab Maalim
8 Aftin not guilty.

9 With respect to Count 20, conspiracy to commit
10 money laundering, we, the jury, find the defendant Abdiwahab
11 Maalim Aftin not guilty.

12 And, finally, with respect to Count Number 27,
13 money laundering, we, the jury, find the defendant Abdiwahab
14 Maalim Aftin not guilty.

15 The verdict form is signed by the foreperson and
16 dated today's date, June 7th, 2024.

17 All right. I will next read the verdict in the
18 case of United States of America versus Mukhtar Mohamed
19 Shariff. The case is 22-cr-0124.

20 With respect to Count 1, conspiracy to commit wire
21 fraud, we, the jury, find the defendant Mukhtar Mohamed
22 Shariff guilty.

23 With respect to Count 8, wire fraud, we, the jury,
24 find the defendant Mukhtar Mohamed Shariff guilty.

25 With respect to Count 3 [sic], conspiracy to

1 commit federal programs bribery, we, the jury, find the
2 defendant Mukhtar Mohamed Shariff not guilty.

3 With respect to Count 15, federal programs
4 bribery, we, the jury, find the defendant Mukhtar Mohamed
5 Shariff not guilty.

6 With respect to Count 20, conspiracy to commit
7 money laundering, we, the jury, find the defendant Mukhtar
8 Mohamed Shariff guilty.

9 And, finally, with respect to Count 31, money
10 laundering, we, the jury, find the defendant Mukhtar Mohamed
11 Shariff guilty.

12 The verdict form is signed by the foreperson and
13 dated today's date, June 7th, 2024.

14 All right. And, finally, I will read the verdict
15 form with respect to the case of United States of America
16 versus Hayat Mohamed Nur. The case is Criminal
17 Number 22-cr-0124.

18 With respect to Count 1, conspiracy to commit wire
19 fraud, we, the jury, find the defendant Hayat Mohamed Nur
20 guilty.

21 With respect to Count 4, wire fraud, we, the jury,
22 find the defendant Hayat Mohamed Nur not guilty.

23 With respect to Count 10, wire fraud, we, the
24 jury, find the defendant Hayat Mohamed Nur guilty.

25 With respect to Count 11, wire fraud, we, the

1 jury, find the defendant Hayat Mohamed Nur guilty.

2 And, finally, with respect to Count 34, money
3 laundering, we, the jury, find the defendant Hayat Mohamed
4 Nur not guilty.

5 The verdict form is signed and dated today's --
6 signed by the foreperson and dated today's date, June 7th,
7 2024.

8 All right. I will now poll the jury to ensure
9 that their verdict is unanimous.

10 Let's see. Starting with Juror Number 78, are
11 these your verdicts?

12 JUROR: Yes.

13 THE COURT: Juror Number 51, are these your
14 verdicts?

15 JUROR: Yes.

16 THE COURT: Juror Number 33, are these your
17 verdicts?

18 JUROR: Yes.

19 THE COURT: Juror Number 17, are these your
20 verdicts?

21 JUROR: Yes.

22 THE COURT: Juror Number 62, are these your
23 verdicts?

24 JUROR: Yes.

25 THE COURT: Juror Number 4, are these your

1 verdicts?

2 JUROR: Yes.

3 THE COURT: Juror Number 38, are these your
4 verdicts?

5 JUROR: Yes.

6 THE COURT: Juror Number 42, are these your
7 verdicts?

8 JUROR: Yes.

9 THE COURT: Juror Number 54, are these your
10 verdicts?

11 JUROR: Yes.

12 THE COURT: Juror Number 14, are these your
13 verdicts?

14 JUROR: Yes.

15 THE COURT: Juror Number 66, are these your
16 verdicts?

17 JUROR: Yes.

18 THE COURT: And Juror Number 71, are these your
19 verdicts?

20 JUROR: Yes.

21 THE COURT: All right. I will direct that all of
22 the verdicts be filed and recorded.

23 Members of the jury, I want to thank you on
24 Judge Brasel's behalf and behalf of all the judges here for
25 your service in this matter. This was an unusually long and

1 unusually difficult and unusually hard case, and all of you
2 were just magnificent in your work, and we very much
3 appreciate it.

4 I'm going to have the security officers take you
5 back to the jury room. I'll be back there in just a couple
6 minutes to give you some instructions and pass on some
7 information from Judge Brasel.

8 You are now discharged as jurors in this matter.
9 Thank you again for your service.

10 (Jury exits courtroom)

11
12 **IN OPEN COURT**

13 **(JURY NOT PRESENT)**

14 THE COURT: All right. Please be seated.

15 The defendants who were acquitted of all charges
16 are obviously discharged and free to go, although I believe
17 they have to be taken back and discharged from the jail. So
18 they can't walk out of here.

19 With respect to those defendants who have been
20 convicted, the detention orders remain in effect. They will
21 remain detained. Judge Brasel will on Monday entertain any
22 motions with respect to those detention orders, but for now
23 they will remain detained.

24 Is there anything else I need to address before I
25 leave? Anything from the government?

1 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, Your Honor.

2 Your Honor, in light of the attempt to bribe a
3 juror in this case, we would ask that all the lawyers and
4 the parties be instructed not to have contact with the
5 jurors without the permission of the court.

6 THE COURT: Yeah, that is Judge Brasel's request.

7 So all attorneys, all defendants -- "all
8 attorneys" mean the government as well -- all the attorneys,
9 all the defendants, and all of your agents and those acting
10 on your behalf are ordered to have no contact whatsoever
11 with the jurors.

12 If you wish to modify that order, you can bring a
13 motion before Judge Brasel next week. Okay?

14 Anything from any of the defendants?

15 MR. MOHRING: I would just -- so is there a
16 timeline for that, Your Honor, or is that an indefinite --

17 THE COURT: It's indefinite for now so that
18 Judge Brasel can discuss with you the contours of anything,
19 but she'll be, she'll be back on Monday, and at that point
20 you can -- if anybody wishes to move to modify that or
21 discuss the limitations on that, she will be available to
22 discuss that.

23 MR. MOHRING: Fair enough. Thank you.

24 THE COURT: Okay? All right. Thank you.

25 THE CLERK: All rise.

(Court adjourned at 1:28 p.m., 06-07-2024.)

* * *

I, Renee A. Rogge, certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

Certified by: /s/Renee A. Rogge
Renee A. Rogge, RMR-CRR

RENEE A. ROGGE, RMR-CRR
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