

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

SHAUN W. BRIDGES

Defendant

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CASE NO. 15-mj-02125-BPG

**UNITED STATES' RESPONSE TO DEFENDANT'S
MOTION FOR DETENTION HEARING**

The United States, through its undersigned attorneys, hereby opposes the motion for detention hearing filed by defendant Shaun W. Bridges.

On February 9, 2016, defendant filed his motion seeking a detention hearing in this Court pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3143(a). However, this Court has no jurisdiction to conduct such a hearing given the procedural posture of this case. As explained in detail below, Bridges was sentenced to serve 71 months in prison by Judge Seeborg of the District Court for the Northern District of California (NDCA), and the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) ordered that Bridges report no later than noon on January 29, 2016, to begin serving his sentence. Bridges is now serving that sentence.

As the Court is likely aware, defendant Bridges pled guilty in NDCA in late August 2015, to a two-count Information charging him with money laundering in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1957 and obstruction of justice in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1512. *See United States v. Shaun Bridges*, 15-cr-00319-RS (NDCA). At the time of his plea, Judge Seeborg, the U.S. District Court judge handling the case, set a sentencing date of December 7, 2015, and allowed Bridges to remain on supervised release pending sentencing. He did so over the objections of the United States, which moved for the defendant's immediate remand to custody given its view that, among other things, the defendant was a flight risk because of the repeated attempts he had recently made to change both his name and social security number and shield that information from law enforcement.

On December 7, 2015, Judge Seeborg sentenced Bridges to 71 months in prison on each count of conviction to run concurrently. Again, Judge Seeborg allowed Bridges to remain on supervised release over the government's objections pending his report date to the designated BOP facility where he would serve his 71-month sentence. The government had requested Bridges' immediate remand to custody given its view the defendant presented a danger to the community and a flight risk. Judge Seeborg denied the government's remand motion but deemed it a "close case" and directed a quick self-surrender date for Bridges of January 29, 2016. The BOP subsequently directed Bridges to report to the Federal Correctional Institution, Berlin, New Hampshire (FCI Berlin) no later than noon on January 29, 2016.

During the week of his report date to FCI Berlin Bridges filed two motions with the Court in NDCA, first seeking the early termination of his electronic monitoring and, after that was denied, seeking to report to FCI Berlin a day early. During this same time, the United States had recently become aware of additional thefts of bitcoins from Secret Service accounts, the facts of which led the government to believe that Bridges, working with others, was also involved in these thefts. The United States continued to believe that Bridges was a flight risk because of these thefts and other reasons already discussed and thus, moved the Court in NDCA, *ex parte* and under seal, for an immediate remand of defendant Bridges to the custody of the U.S. Marshals. Judge Seeborg granted the government's motion for immediate remand and issued a warrant for Bridges' arrest. The Court issued its order and the arrest warrant late on January 27, 2016, and Bridges was taken into custody on the morning of January 28, 2016, during the execution of a search warrant for Bridges' home issued by this Court on January 27, 2016.

This procedural background is intended to give the Court context for defendant's motion, which is based on 18 U.S.C. § 3143(a) pertaining to release or detention pending sentence. As indicated above, Bridges was ordered by the U.S. District Judge and by BOP to report no later than noon on January 29, 2016, to begin serving his sentence. That date has come and gone. Bridges is now in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service while BOP makes a determination as to where Bridges will be directed to serve his sentence. Given the results of the search of Bridges' house, which revealed evidence of additional crimes, BOP has informed the government that it will designate a facility other than the low security FCI Berlin facility where Bridges would have been

serving his sentence.

Bridges' arrest on January 28, 2016, was related to the original charges to which he had already been sentenced to 71 months in prison. Following his arrest, the government filed a Motion in which it argued that Bridges' "continued post-sentencing detention in the custody of the USMS is appropriate under 18 U.S.C. § 3143, and all of the foregoing, and given all of the additional facts contained in the under seal filings of yesterday." *See* Motion of the Government and Order Granting the United States' Motion to Terminate Defendant's Motion to Self-Surrender and Motion to Unseal Arrest Warrant, Dkt. No. 117 (NDCA) (Attached as Exhibit 1). Judge Seeborg signed the government's Proposed Order accompanying that Motion. *Id.* As such, there is no occasion, or even jurisdiction, for this Court to conduct a detention hearing given that Bridges is now in the custody of the U.S. Marshal's Service to be transported to the designated BOP facility to serve the remainder of his 71-month sentence. Judge Seeborg's recent Order makes plain that Bridges is in custody serving the 71-month sentence in the underlying case, to wit 15-CR-319 RS, and not on any other new matter out of the District of Maryland.

For the reasons stated above, the United States submits that no hearing is necessary and thus, respectfully requests that the Court deny defendant's motion.

DATED: February 17, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

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17 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
18 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
19 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION
20

21 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) CASE NO. CR 15-0319-001 RS
22 v.) UNITED STATES' MOTION TO TERMINATE
23 SHAUN W. BRIDGES) DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR SELF-
(A/K/A "NUMBER 13"),) SURRENDER AND MOTION TO UNSEAL
24 Defendant.) ARREST WARRANT AND ~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER
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1 The government submits the instant filing to terminate the defendant’s pending motion for self-
2 surrender that was filed yesterday. Pursuant to the warrant issued under seal by this Court last night for
3 the arrest of Shaun Bridges, the government hereby apprises the Court that Bridges was successfully
4 arrested without incident this morning. During the execution that warrant, and based on facts that
5 remain under seal before this Court, the government recovered the following items: two “pelican style”
6 bags which contained: identity documents; a passport card in Bridges’ name; a notarized copy of
7 Bridges’ passport; corporate records for at least 3 different offshore entities ranging from Nevis to
8 Belize to Mauritius, including one that Bridges created on October 28, 2015 after he had pleaded guilty
9 in this case; a Samsung cell phone; and a thumb drive. Also located in those bags were documents
10 relating to his wife’s, Ariana Esposito’s, attempts to obtain citizenship in another country. Government
11 agents also found a MacBook with the serial number scratched off, an ipad tucked between a bedroom
12 mattress, and bulletproof vests, at least one of which had Secret Service markings and thus is believed to
13 have been stolen from the government. It should be noted that this was not the sum of evidence agents
14 recovered – rather, the government is only including facts here that it believes are relevant to the
15 defendant’s risk of flight.

16 In light of the defendant’s arrest, and possibly for other reasons contained in filings that remain
17 under seal, BOP has apprised government counsel that it is in the process of redesignating the defendant
18 to another BOP facility. Today, the defendant filed a motion in the District of Maryland for his release
19 from custody and self-surrender to a BOP facility. His motion was denied by Magistrate Judge Sullivan
20 based, in part, on the arrest warrant issued by this Court. Defendant, therefore, remains in the custody of
21 the USMS pending BOP’s redesignation. The government submits that his continued post-sentencing
22 detention in the custody of the USMS is appropriate under 18 U.S.C. § 3143, and all of the foregoing,
23 and given all of the additional facts contained in the under seal filings of yesterday.

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1 **~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER**

2 For the reasons set forth above, the Defendant's Motion for Early Self-Surrender is DENIED;

3 For good cause shown, the Arrest Warrant is hereby ordered unsealed and the Government's
4 filing of yesterday in this case shall remain under seal until further order of this Court.

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6 Date: 1/29/16



HON. RICHARD SEEBORG
United States District Judge