

SDD:JMH
F. #2017R01764

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

----- X

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- against -

VICTOR CASILLAS,

Defendant.

----- X

**TO BE FILED
UNDER SEAL**

COMPLAINT

(18 U.S.C. § 875(b))

17^{No.} M 888

EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, SS:

JACQUELINE ROSS, being duly sworn, deposes and states that she is a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, duly appointed according to law and acting as such.

On or about and between September 26, 2017, and October 4, 2017, both dates being approximate and inclusive, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant VICTOR CASILLAS, knowingly and with intent to extort money from a corporation located in Colorado (“the Victim Company”), did transmit in interstate and foreign commerce, via the Internet, one or more communications containing threats to injure one or more employees of the Victim Company.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 875(b))

The source of your deponent's information and the grounds for her belief are as follows:¹

1. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("the FBI") and have been involved in the investigation of numerous cases involving the use of the Internet to commit violations of federal criminal laws, including but not limited to investigations involving the transmission of threats in interstate and foreign commerce via the Internet. I am familiar with the facts and circumstances set forth below from my participation in the investigation; my review of the investigative file, including the defendant's criminal history record; and from reports of other law enforcement officers involved in the investigation.

2. Based on the facts set forth in this affidavit, there is probable cause to believe that violations of 18 U.S.C. § 875(b), the transmission of extortionate threats in interstate commerce, have been committed, are being committed, and will be committed by VICTOR CASILLAS. Specifically, CASILLAS is believed to have sent threatening communications via the Internet to one or more employees of the Victim Company. The threats, in sum and substance, state that CASILLAS will murder one or more employees of the Victim Company if his demands for money from the Victim Company are not met, as more fully set forth below.

3. Based on information provided by the Victim Company and open source information associated with the Victim Company's website, I know that the Victim

¹ Because the purpose of this Complaint is to set forth only those facts necessary to establish probable cause to arrest, I have not described all the relevant facts and circumstances of which I am aware.

Company markets a mobile application, accessible via the Internet, that allows users to review and obtain promotional sales offers from various retailers. Users may also earn credits from the Victim Company by submitting proofs of purchases made using such offers to the Victim Company. Over time, users may exchange those credits for money.

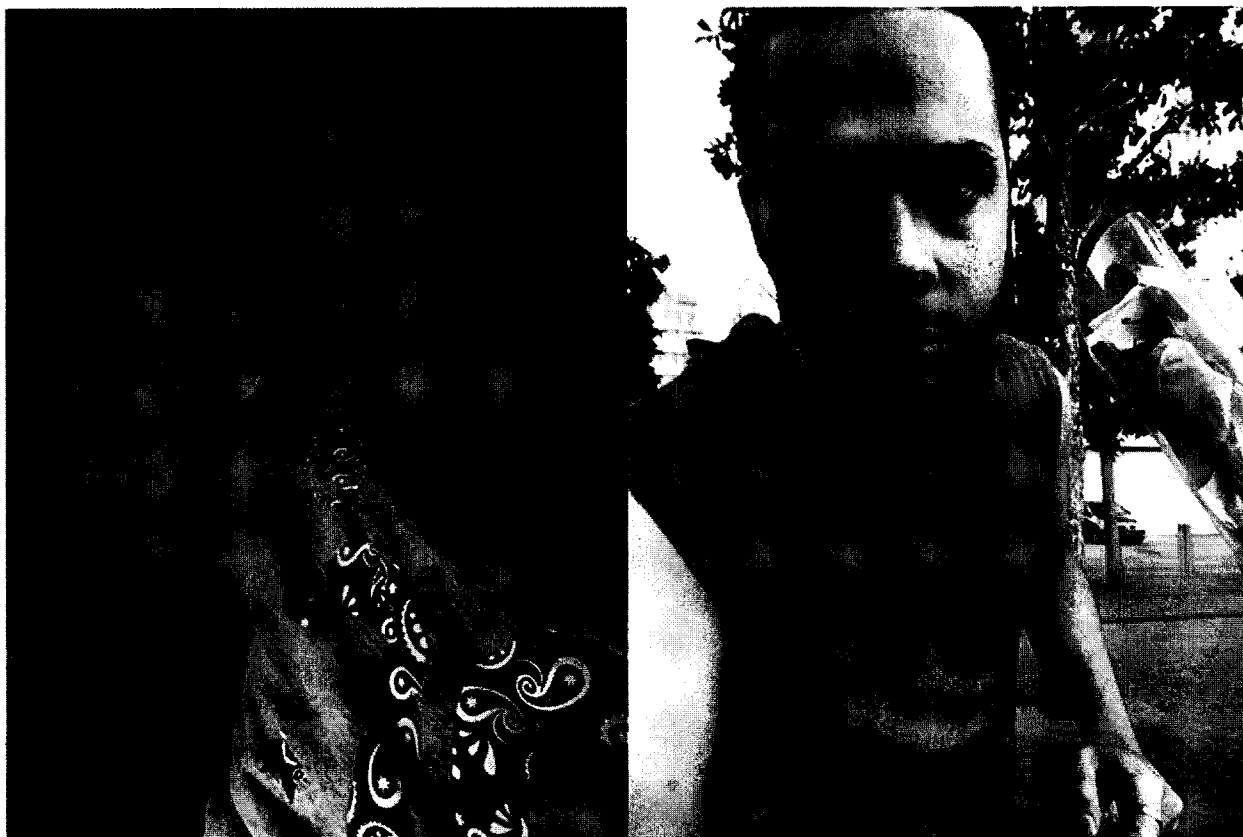
4. Based on information provided by the Victim Company, I also know that the Victim Company gives users credits, exchangeable for money, for referring other users to make use of the Victim Company's services. The Victim Company refers to these as "referral bonuses."

5. Based on information provided by the Victim Company, I know that the Victim Company has received a number of threatening communications from an individual using the name "Victor Casillas." Specifically, records from the Victim Company reflect that a user named "Victor Casillas" opened his first account on or about September 19, 2014, using the email address viconefans187@gmail.com ("Casillas Account A"). Victim Company records also reflect that a user named "Victor Casillas" subsequently opened approximately fourteen additional accounts using various email addresses in 2016 and 2017.

6. In late 2016 and early 2017, the Victim Company undertook a review of several of the "Victor Casillas" accounts, and concluded that they represented a potentially fraudulent effort to generate referral bonuses. The user of the account, whom I believe to be CASILLAS, communicated via Casillas Account A in connection with the disputed bonuses. During the course of the dispute, the user circulated a draft letter to a third party company, one of the retailers from whom users of the Victim Company's services can obtain offers. In sum and substance, the letter states CASILLAS's complaints about the Victim Company.

In the course of the letter, CASILLAS identified various social media accounts as belonging to him, including but not limited to a Facebook Account with the vanity username “vicone954” (“the Casillas Facebook Account”), and a personal website (“the Casillas Website”).

7. Based on information provided by the Victim Company, I know that the Victim Company collected publicly-available photographs from the Casillas Facebook Account during the course of the dispute. Those photographs, which depict an individual I believe to be VICTOR CASILLAS, were provided to me by the Victim Company and are reproduced below:

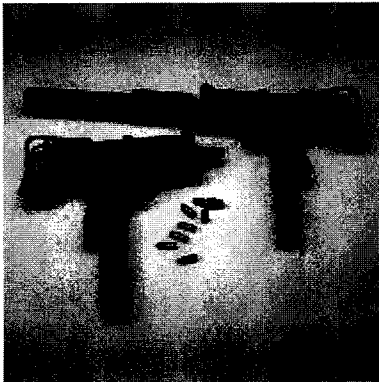


8. In early 2017, the Victim Company attempted to resolve the dispute by issuing a \$40 payment and closing the related user accounts. In connection with the payment, the Victim Company required the user, whom I believe to be CASILLAS, to provide a telephone number to facilitate transfer of the payment via an Internet payment application, Paypal. CASILLAS provided the telephone number (347) 564-1718 (“the 1718 Number”) to the Victim Company.

9. Over the course of 2017, additional accounts were created at the Victim Company by an individual using the user name “Victor Casillas.” One of these accounts was associated with the email address skrillavic187@gmail.com (“Casillas Account B”).² The Victim Company, after a review of the accounts, again concluded that they represented a potentially fraudulent attempt to generate referral bonuses. They therefore locked the user accounts, including the one associated with Casillas Account B. On or about September 26, 2017, the Victim Company advised the user of Casillas Account B that it was deactivating the associated account.

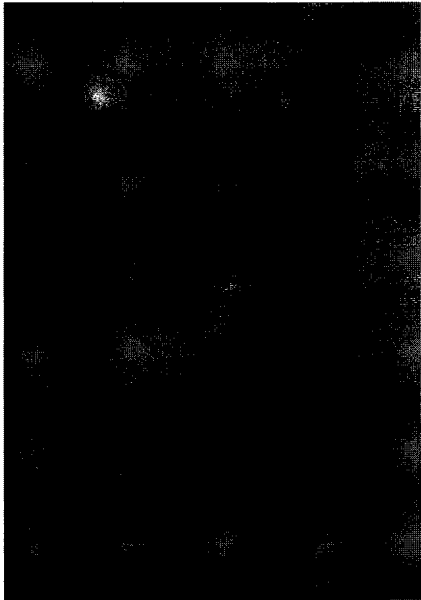
10. Over the course of the next several days, the user of the closed accounts, whom I believe to be CASILLAS, caused the following threatening communications, among others, to be sent to the Victim Company by means of the Internet, either via the email address associated with Casillas Account B, or via the Victim Company’s mobile or web-based application:

² Based on my training and experience, I know that the numeric sequence “187” can sometimes be used as shorthand for a murder or other unlawful death, based on the numeration of the crime of murder in the California Penal Code, see Cal. Penal Code § 187, and its usage in common American slang.

Date	Content ³
Sept. 26, 2017	such a cowardly act on your behalf whats your name btw? I wanna know who your spouse and children are too and I'm not asking you I'm telling you, I want to know who your parents are as well if the pieces of trash are even still alive (for now) for that matter,
Sept. 27, 2017	<p>IVE ARRIVED IN DENVER</p> <p>STOLEN FUNDS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE EARNER I HOPE YOU CLEARLY UNDERSTAND IF THE LAW DONT GET YOU.....I WILL!!!!.....THE ACT THAT WAS COMMITED WAS COLD HEARTED SADISTIC, FALSE, I DID NO SUCH THING OF DUPLICATING [Victim Company] ACCOUNTS..... YOU WILL GIVE MY GODAM FUNDS YOU SONS OF BITCHES, I SPENT 100'S OF DOLLARS AND EVEN TOOK ME 3 HOURS TO SHOP ON [Third-Party Website] THROUGH YOUR MOBILE APP..... YOU AINT HEARING ME?? YOU DONT FEEL MY PAIN?..... SO BE IT....SEE YOU ALL SOON.</p> <p>[The communication was accompanied by the photograph of the two submachine guns depicted below]⁴</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
Sept. 27, 2017	THIS IS NOT A JOKE NO 48 HOURS TOOK ME 3 HOURS TO ORDER FROM [Third Party Website], YO9U GUYA ARE NOT GETTING AWAY WITH THIS, I WILL BE PURCHASING MY AIRLINE TICKETS WITHIN THE NEXT HALF]HOUR

³ The content of the messages quoted herein is replicated herein as in the original, including typographical errors, except where indicated.

⁴ Further investigation revealed that this photograph of what appear to be two MAC-11 submachine guns may be obtained from open-source images accessible via the Internet.

Date	Content ³
Sept. 27, 2017	<p>KEEP UP THE STALL, ITLL BE THE LAST TIME YOU EVER DO....</p> <p>[The communication was accompanied by the photograph of a submachine gun, with silencer, and two high-capacity magazines, depicted below]⁵</p> 
Sept. 28, 2017	<p>I AM HERE IN COLORADO..... I AM READY EQUIPPED AND READY TO STRIKE (RETALIATE TO RECOVER STOLEN FUNDS OF 113 BY CRIMINALS OF [Victim Company] INC) IN ANY GIVING MOMENT.....YOU HAVE TIL THE END OF THIS MONTH TODO THE RIGHT THING....again i repeat the Gods honest RIGHT THING..... HOPE YOU VALUE THE LIVES OF YOUR (CROOKED) EMPLOYEES.,</p>

11. On September 28, 2017, at approximately 1:35 p.m., the Victim Company received a communication via the Internet stating: "TOP TARGETS FOR SNIPER ... NAMES OF FIRST ROW OF SERIAL DEATHS BY ASSASIATION," going on to list

⁵ Further investigation revealed that this photograph of what appears to be a MAC-10 submachine gun may be obtained from open-source images accessible via the Internet.

three names of Victim Company employees, followed by the warning “PLEASE TELL LOVED ONES TO START PICKING OUT A NICE BEAUTIFUL CASKET AND PLAN A DECENT FUNERAL.”

12. The message continued with four additional names of Victim Company employees, including photographs. One of the employee names was suffixed with the word “Decapitation.”

13. On October 1, 2017, the Victim Company received a communication from skrillavic187part2killibottas@gmail.com (“Casillas Account C”), which stated, among other statements: “I JUST CANT WAIT TO REALITY HITS AND YOU (THE CURRENT READER) OR CO WORKERS ARE LAYING IN THEIR CASKET ALL FOR A PETTY \$100 . . . HOPE IT IS WORTH IT . . .P.S. SEE YOU GUYS SOON!”

14. On October 4, 2017, the Victim Company received a communication from the email address associated with Casillas Account B, titled “GET READY FOR A LAS VEGAS REPEAT (Final Warning),” stating “I I STILL HAVE NOT RECIEVED MY GOD DAM FUNDS.....ASSHOLES . . . WELL GET READY 4 LAS VEGas part 2MAYBE TODAY YOU WILL MEET YOU MAKER.”⁶ The Victim Company received IP Address information associated with this message, which indicated that the message originated in Brooklyn, New York.

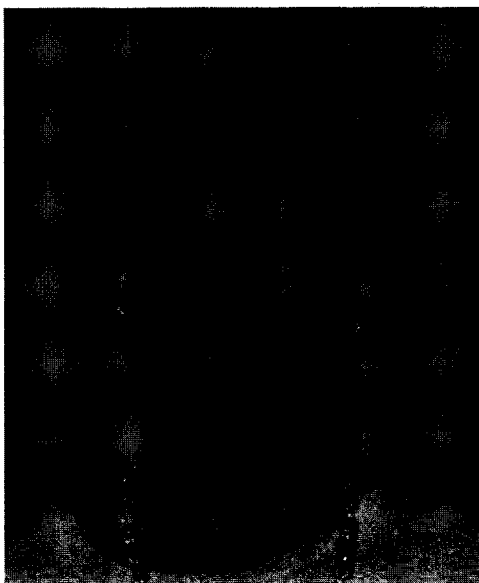
15. The messages summarized above reflect a representative sample of the communications received by the Victim Company relating to the closed “Victor Casillas” accounts. Based on information provided by the Victim Company, I know that several

⁶ I believe the reference to “Las Vegas” to be a reference to the mass shooting that occurred in Las Vegas, Nevada, on October 1, 2017.

additional messages, similar in form and content, were received relating to the closed “Victor Casillas” accounts.

16. The Victim Company recorded IP Address and GPS location information associated with each of the “Victor Casillas” accounts at the Victim Company. Based on my review of that GPS location information, each was created from an IP address located within the boroughs of Manhattan, Brooklyn, or Staten Island.

17. From information provided by New York State authorities, I know that VICTOR CASILLAS has been issued a New York State non-driver identification card listing a registered address on Monument Walk in Brooklyn, New York, and bearing the photograph depicted below:




18. Based on my review of the above photograph, I believe the person depicted is the same individual depicted in the photographs collected from the Casillas Facebook Account referenced in paragraph 7, above, that is, VICTOR CASILLAS. Moreover, on October 5, 2017, I accessed publicly-available information and photographs

associated with the Casillas Facebook Account. In sum and substance, several photographs depicted CASILLAS. Among other photographs, one of the photographs depicted in paragraph 10, above, was displayed. The Casillas Facebook Account also identified a number of other social media accounts with various services, frequently under the username or handle of "vicone187". The Casillas Facebook Account also lists the information for the Casillas Website referenced in paragraph 6, above.

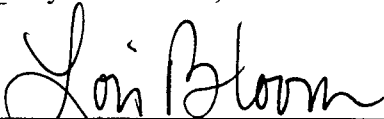
19. On October 5, 2017, I obtained information from the service provider for the 1718 Number provided by CASILLAS to the Victim Company, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2702. The information revealed that the 1718 Number is still active, and that it is registered to "Victor Casillas" with the same address identified on the New York State identification described in paragraph 17, above.

WHEREFORE, your deponent respectfully requests that the defendant VICTOR CASILLAS, be dealt with according to law.



JACQUELINE ROSS
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to before me this
5th day of October, 2017



THE HONORABLE LOIS BLOOM
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK