

Approved:

ROBERT B. BUEHLER  
EDWARD C. O'CALLAGHAN  
Assistant United States Attorneys

Before: HONORABLE ANDREW J. PECK  
United States Magistrate Judge  
Southern District of New York

-----x

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, :

- v - :

ALIMZHAN TOKHTAKHOUNOV, :  
a/k/a "Taiwanchik," :  
a/k/a "Alik," :

Defendant. :

-----x

**SEALED**  
**COMPLAINT**

Violation of  
18 U.S.C. §§ 224, 371,  
1343, and 3238

County of Offense:  
New York

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ss.:

WILLIAM E. MCCAUSLAND, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), and charges as follows:

COUNT ONE

1. From in or about January 2002, up to and including in or about March 2002, in an offense begun out of the jurisdiction of any particular State or district, ALIMZHAN TOKHTAKHOUNOV, a/k/a "Taiwanchik," a/k/a "Alik," the defendant, and others known and unknown, unlawfully, willfully and knowingly did combine, conspire, confederate and agree together and with each other to commit an offense against the United States, to wit, to violate Section 1343 of Title 18, United States Code.

2. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that ALIMZHAN TOKHTAKHOUNOV, a/k/a "Taiwanchik," a/k/a "Alik," the defendant, and others known and unknown, unlawfully, willfully and knowingly, having devised and intending to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud, and for obtaining money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, would and did transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire communication in interstate and foreign commerce, a writing, sign, signal and sound for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, to wit, through a series of telephone calls,

TOKHTAKHOUNOV and his co-conspirators agreed to use their influence to affect the results of the pairs figure skating and ice dancing competitions at the 2002 Winter Olympics, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

Overt Acts

3. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the illegal object thereof, the following overt acts, among others, were committed in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere:

a. On or about February 5, 2002, while in Italy, ALIMZHAN TOKHTAKHOUNOV, a/k/a "Taiwanchik," a/k/a "Alik," the defendant, spoke over the telephone with a co-conspirator not named as a defendant herein about obtaining the telephone number of a member of the Russian figure skating federation.

b. On or about February 12, 2002, while in Italy, ALIMZHAN TOKHTAKHOUNOV, a/k/a "Taiwanchik," a/k/a "Alik," the defendant, spoke over the telephone with a member of the Russian figure skating federation about the results of the pairs figure skating competition at the 2002 Winter Olympics.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 371 and 3238.)

COUNT TWO

4. From in or about January 2002, up to and including in or about March 2002, in an offense begun out of the jurisdiction of any particular State or district, ALIMZHAN TOKHTAKHOUNOV, a/k/a "Taiwanchik," a/k/a "Alik," the defendant, and others known and unknown, unlawfully, willfully and knowingly did combine, conspire, confederate and agree together and with each other to carry into effect a scheme in commerce to influence by bribery a sporting contest, to wit, the pairs figure skating and ice dancing competitions in the 2002 Winter Olympics, with knowledge that the purpose of such scheme was to influence by bribery that contest, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 224.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 224 and 3238.)

The bases for my knowledge and for the foregoing charges are, in part, as follows:

5. I am a Special Agent with the FBI, and I have been personally involved in the investigation of this case. I am currently assigned to a squad whose principal responsibility is

to investigate the criminal activities of members of Eurasian Organized Crime. I have been investigating the criminal activities of members and associates of Eurasian Organized Crime for the last seven years. This affidavit is based upon my personal participation in this investigation, conversations with other FBI agents and law enforcement officers, and review of relevant documents, transcripts, and tapes.

6. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause, I have not included details of every aspect of this investigation. Where conversations with, or statements of, others are related herein, they are related in substance and in part only.

7. As widely reported in the media and investigated by the FBI, at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah, on February 11, 2002, the Russian team of Yelena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze won the gold medal in the pairs figure skating competition. The Canadian team was awarded the silver medal in the competition. Following the competition, a dispute developed concerning the judging in the pairs figure skating event. During an interview with the FBI, a high-ranking official in the International Skating Union ("ISU") stated that the French judge in the pairs competition had admitted that she scored the Russian team higher than the Canadian team because of pressure that had been placed on her by the president of the French Skating Federation ("FSF"). According to the ISU official, the French judge later recanted her admission that pressure had been placed on her by the president of the FSF. Eventually, on February 16, 2002, the Canadian team was awarded a second set of gold medals in the pairs competition. Subsequently, on February 18, 2002, the French team won the gold medal in the ice dancing competition at the Olympics. The female member of the French ice dancing team ("the female ice dancer") was born in the former Soviet Union and currently competes for France.

8. Numerous confidential sources have informed the FBI that ALIMZHAN TOKHTAKHOUNOV, a/k/a "Taiwanchik," a/k/a "Alik," the defendant, is a major figure in international Eurasian Organized Crime. According to an Interpol report, dated April 2001, which I have reviewed, TOKHTAKHOUNOV has been involved in, among other things, drug distribution, illegal firearms sales, and trafficking in stolen vehicles. A reliable confidential source has informed the FBI that, among other things, TOKHTAKHOUNOV is alleged to have fixed various beauty pageants in Moscow in the early 1990s. According to this source, TOKHTAKHOUNOV later lived in France but was forced to leave that country. TOKHTAKHOUNOV relocated to Italy, where he currently

resides.

9. On or about February 23, 2002, the FBI interviewed the president of the FSF, who provided the following information: Approximately two years ago, ALIMZHAN TOKHTAKHOUNOV, a/k/a "Taiwanchik," a/k/a "Alik," the defendant, contacted the FSF president and stated that he wanted to organize a professional hockey team in Paris, France, which would be operated by the FSF. TOKHTAKHOUNOV explained that he would give large amounts of money to the FSF. The president of the FSF was interested in TOKHTAKHOUNOV's offer, because the FSF did not have much money to sponsor athletic teams. After several conversations with the president of the FSF, TOKHTAKHOUNOV stated that in connection with sponsoring the hockey team, he needed a favor. Specifically, TOKHTAKHOUNOV stated that his French visa was expiring and that TOKHTAKHOUNOV needed the president of the FSF to assist him in obtaining an extension of his French visa. The president of the FSF told TOKHTAKHOUNOV that he would see what could be done. The president of the FSF later contacted the French government official responsible for sports regarding TOKHTAKHOUNOV's request. After several months, this official told the president of the FSF that TOKHTAKHOUNOV's money is bad and that the FSF should not get involved with TOKHTAKHOUNOV. The president of the FSF informed the FBI that he told TOKHTAKHOUNOV that the FSF was not interested in TOKHTAKHOUNOV's proposal and that he had not seen or spoken to TOKHTAKHOUNOV again.

10. During the course of this investigation, I have learned that law enforcement authorities in Italy have been conducting wire surveillance on the telephone of ALIMZHAN TOKHTAKHOUNOV, a/k/a "Taiwanchik," a/k/a "Alik," the defendant. I have reviewed numerous English translations of telephone conversations recorded by the Italian authorities between TOKHTAKHOUNOV and various members of the conspiracy described in this complaint. TOKHTAKHOUNOV was located in Italy during all of the telephone conversations summarized below. Another Special Agent of the FBI who is fluent in the Russian language has personally listened to all of the conversations summarized below, which were conducted in Russian. The following summaries are based on preliminary translations.

a. On or about February 5, 2002, TOKHTAKHOUNOV spoke with a person known to the FBI to be a member of Russian Organized Crime ("CC-1"). During this conversation, TOKHTAKHOUNOV asked CC-1 if CC-1 had the telephone number of a specific member of the Russian figure skating federation ("CC-2"). TOKHTAKHOUNOV explained that he "needed [CC-2] immediately, I got a call from [the female ice dancer's] mother." CC-1 asked

TOKHTAKHOUNOV, "Regarding the Olympics?", and TOKHTAKHOUNOV replied, "Yes, yes." CC-1 then stated that "we will help her," and TOKHTAKHOUNOV responded, "That's a given." CC-1 said that he would give TOKHTAKHOUNOV the telephone number for CC-2, explaining that CC-2 "is close to us, he is a good guy, he will do it. . . . Because there is a lot for him there."

b. On or about February 12, 2002, TOKHTAKHOUNOV spoke with CC-2. This call occurred after the Russian pairs figure skating team won the gold medal at the Olympics. During this conversation, CC-2 told TOKHTAKHOUNOV that "[o]ur French, have amazed me in a good way. I am calling you so you can call her mother or the father and tell them everything will be o.k. . . . Because now the French, with their vote pulled out that pair . . . Made them champions . . . Our Sikharulidze fell, the Canadians were ten times better, and in spite of that, the French with their vote gave us first place." CC-2 explained to TOKHTAKHOUNOV that "everything is going the way you need it." TOKHTAKHOUNOV replied that "I don't need it, she needs it, they asked." Based on my knowledge of this investigation, and the subsequent telephone calls that will be described below, I believe that the woman to whom CC-2 and TOKHTAKHOUNOV are referring in this call is the female ice dancer identified above, who was scheduled to skate in the ice dancing competition for France later that week. CC-2 told TOKHTAKHOUNOV that "even if she stumbles, she will be (inaudible) . . . but it is better if she does not stumble."

c. During this same conversation, CC-2 and TOKHTAKHOUNOV discussed CC-2's current understanding of the breakdown of the voting by the judges in the ice dancing competition. CC-2 explained that "the French have only three judges, with their vote, they need two definitely . . . these two votes are, one is ours, and the other our friends will give them." Later in the call, CC-2 stated that "if we go for their side, the Italians will be left with three votes, so the French can only win by the score of four to five." Although the Russian judge did not vote for the French team in the ice dancing competition, which occurred several days after this call and in the midst of the widely-reported controversy about the judging in the pairs competition, the French team won the ice dancing competition by a five to four vote, as CC-2 stated.

d. During this same conversation on February 12, 2002, TOKHTAKHOUNOV agreed that he would call the female ice dancer's family and let them know. CC-2 then told TOKHTAKHOUNOV that he would tell the female ice dancer, "I am doing this for Alik [TOKHTAKHOUNOV], although I want you to help him with

something," referring to the visa problems that TOKHTAKHOUNOV was having with the French authorities. TOKHTAKHOUNOV told CC-2 that the female ice dancer had already tried to help him with the French authorities, but her efforts had not succeeded. TOKHTAKHOUNOV explained, "she was worried, she would do anything, but could not . . . That president, he is a homo, promised but did nothing." CC-2 responded by asking, "You mean the president of ice skating," referring to the FSF president. TOKHTAKHOUNOV said, "Yes, yes, he studied with one of Chirac's aides, understand?" Again referring to the FSF president, CC-2 replied, "I told you the problem is with him." TOKHTAKHOUNOV explained that the female ice dancer "was worried, she strong-armed him, she is one of ours." CC-2 replied, "[s]he is one of ours, and she will be an Olympic champion." TOKHTAKHOUNOV responded, "Thank you, she will be grateful to you for the rest of her life."

e. CC-2 continued this conversation by stating, "[the female ice dancer] is performing in five days . . . therefore I am telling you that not everything is good with the judging for her . . ." TOKHTAKHOUNOV asked, "But, you will help, right?" CC-2 responded, "[o]f course, we will help because you told us to do it, and because the French helped us here." CC-2 again explained to TOKHTAKHOUNOV the results of the pairs figure skating competition and, in particular, how well the Canadians had performed, stating that the Canadians "performed cleanly and beautifully, their scores are 6.0, but they got 5.8 and 5.9" CC-2 ended the conversation by telling TOKHTAKHOUNOV, "[w]ith one vote we won, that one vote was French, because the French have nothing except for the ice dancing . . . She [the female ice dancer] is a Russian girl, and we will feel good about it," referring to the scheme to make the female ice dancer the Olympic champion. TOKHTAKHOUNOV said, "Of course."

f. On or about February 12, 2002, the same day as the call described in paragraphs 10(b) through (e), TOKHTAKHOUNOV spoke with the female ice dancer's mother. During this conversation, TOKHTAKHOUNOV told the female ice dancer's mother that "[CC-2] called me from America, he told me we are going to make [the female ice dancer] an Olympic champion . . . Yesterday the French . . . the French helped the pair figure skating, gave the last vote . . . He said, for this we will make [the female ice dancer], even if she falls, we will make sure she is number one, [CC-2] said so." TOKHTAKHOUNOV explained that CC-2 "said he will help, he has two or three judges . . . So, make [the female ice dancer] happy, tell her we will help her, and do it all." The female ice dancer's mother then thanked TOKHTAKHOUNOV. As described above, on February 18, 2002, the

French ice dancing team, which included the female ice dancer, was awarded the gold medal.

g. On or about March 7, 2002, TOKHTAKHOUNOV spoke with the female ice dancer. During this conversation, the female ice dancer told TOKHTAKHOUNOV that she had not called him from the United States because she was forbidden to do so by the FSF president. The female ice dancer said that "the FBI were interviewing [the FSF president] for a few days . . . [because] information came in . . . that [TOKHTAKHOUNOV was] involved with the results." TOKHTAKHOUNOV responded, "[t]hat is nonsense, he is frightened, there was nothing like that . . . [the FSF president] was afraid for himself, because the whole thing was uncovered." Later in the call, the female ice dancer said, "[the FSF president] came, told me, and they really did check him, the FBI." TOKHTAKHOUNOV replied, "It was him they were checking, what does that have to do with me, he knows my name very well, he tried to help me, and later he made stuff up to scare you, so you would not connect me to him even more . . . He was protecting himself." The female ice dancer responded that CC-2 "came up to me and started yelling at me, 'call Alik, you are such a bitch, not calling,' but [the FSF president] forbid me to call, so I could not call." TOKHTAKHOUNOV said, "[n]o, no, no, the reason [CC-2] said this to you, . . . a week before your performance, . . . I contacted your mother . . . [CC-2] said, 'Alik, everything is O.K. there, even if' . . . I just don't want to say now." At other points during this conversation, TOKHTAKHOUNOV expressed his fear that the female ice dancer's telephone conversations were being recorded. As a result, I believe that he is reluctant to discuss the full scope of the scheme with the female ice dancer during this telephone call. TOKHTAKHOUNOV indicated that CC-2 had told him, "[e]verything is good, even if everything turns out badly, it will still be good." Based on my knowledge of this investigation, and the previous telephone calls described above, I believe that in this discussion, TOKHTAKHOUNOV explained to the female ice dancer that prior to her competing in the ice dancing competition, CC-2 had told TOKHTAKHOUNOV that the female ice dancer would be the Olympic champion in the ice dancing competition.

h. During this same call, the female ice dancer expressed her belief that she would have won the competition without the assistance of TOKHTAKHOUNOV and CC-2, stating that "the Russians did not put us in first place." TOKHTAKHOUNOV replied, "[t]hey did or did not . . . whatever craziness happened, the French are responsible for themselves. They were doing a favor for the Russians, the first one, for the Georgians . . . You understand?" Based on the fact that the last name of

the male member of the Russian pairs figure skating team -- Sikharulidze -- is of Georgian descent, I believe that TOKHTAKHOUNOV's use of the term "Georgians" is a reference to the Russian team in the pairs competition. TOKHTAKHOUNOV later explained, "Regarding the Georgian variant, then they [the French] helped over there, there was an agreement that they would help over here." The female ice dancer later said, "I was aware, this was all before the competition . . ." In describing the scheme, TOKHTAKHOUNOV stated, "even before leaving . . . [CC-2] said, 'everything will be O.K., [the female ice dancer] should not be concerned, let her perform even if she falls, everything will be O.K.'" Towards the end of the conversation, TOKHTAKHOUNOV asked the female ice dancer what the FSF president had said about this matter. The female ice dancer replied, "[h]e said there are inquiries, he said he was asked about his association with you, he said, 'I know him, there was something regarding hockey.'" TOKHTAKHOUNOV replied, "[h]e is lying . . . we have nothing in common." In fact, as described above, when he was interviewed by the FBI in February 2002, the FSF president stated that he had previously had discussions with TOKHTAKHOUNOV about organizing a professional hockey team in Paris, France, which would be funded by money from TOKHTAKHOUNOV in return for the FSF president's help in securing a French visa for TOKHTAKHOUNOV.

WHEREFORE, deponent prays that an arrest warrant be issued for ALIMZHAN TOKHTAKHOUNOV, a/k/a "Taiwanchik," a/k/a "Alik," the above-named defendant, and that he be arrested and imprisoned, or bailed, as the case may be.

WILLIAM E. McCAUSLAND  
Special Agent,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to before me this  
22nd day of July, 2002.

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK