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Approved: Brooke E. Cucinella
BROOKE E. CUCINELLA/HADASSA WAXMAN
Assistant United States Attorneys

Before: THE HONORABLE JAMES C. FRANCIS IV
United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of New York

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	<u>COMPLAINT</u>
- v. -	:	Violation of
	:	18 U.S.C. §1201(c)
ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," and	:	County of Offense:
RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick,"	:	New York County
Defendants.	:	

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ss.:

ANTHONY FOTO, 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 at least in or about the spring of 2011, up to and including on or about April 15, 2013, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," and RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," the defendants, and others known and unknown, willfully and knowingly did combine, conspire, confederate, and agree together and with each other to violate Title 18, United States Code, Section 1201.

2. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," and RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," the defendants, and others known and unknown, would unlawfully seize, confine, inveigle, decoy, kidnap, abduct, and carry away and hold for ransom and reward and otherwise, a person, and use a means, facility, and instrumentality of interstate commerce in committing and in

furtherance of the commission of the kidnapping, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1201.

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. In or about the spring of 2011, a co-conspirator not named as a defendant herein ("CC-1"), and ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," the defendant, met and discussed a plan to kidnap women.

b. On or about March 13, 2013, ASCH met with an FBI agent working in an undercover capacity ("UC-1") in lower Manhattan, New York, to discuss plans to kidnap and kill a woman.

c. On or about April 3, 2013, ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," and RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," the defendants, discussed over the telephone the killing of a specific woman.

d. On or about April 6, 2013, ASCH travelled from New York, New York, to Allentown, Pennsylvania, where he attended a gun show and purchased a taser gun.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 1201(c).)

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

4. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and I have been personally involved in the investigation of this matter. This affidavit is based in part upon my conversations with other law-enforcement agents and my examination of reports and records. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause, it does not include all the facts that I have learned during the course of my investigation. Where the contents of documents and the actions, statements, and conversations of others are reported herein, they are reported in substance and in part, except where otherwise indicated.

5. In or about October 2012, I and other FBI agents learned that CC-1, a co-conspirator not named herein, was sending electronic mail ("e-mail") and instant messages from various computers to solicit individuals to kidnap, rape, and kill his wife ("Victim-1"), as well as his sister-in-law ("Victim-2"), and her children and his step-daughter (the "Minor Victims").

6. Pursuant to Court-authorized search warrants, members of the FBI reviewed communications from CC-1's e-mail account, and learned that CC-1 had been communicating (or "chatting") with ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," a former New York City public high school librarian, and RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," the Chief of Police at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Bedford VA Medical Center in Massachusetts, the defendants, and others, from as early as March 2012, about CC-1's, ASCH's and MELTZ's shared objective to kidnap, rape, torture, and kill (referred to in the communications as "snuffing") women, children, and infants, including Victim-1, Victim-2, and the Minor Victims.

7. In or about October 2012, I, along with other FBI agents, met with CC-1, who agreed to discuss with us his communications with ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," and RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," the defendants. During these interviews, CC-1 told us that he had sent to ASCH and MELTZ, via e-mail, photographs of Victim-2 and the Minor Victims, and an address in close proximity to where Victim-2 and the Minor Victims reside. According to CC-1, ASCH and MELTZ both expressed interest in kidnapping Victim-2 and the Minor Victims.

8. During the interviews, CC-1 further informed me and other FBI agents that in or about the spring or summer of 2011, CC-1 and ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," the defendant, met in New Jersey to surveil potential female kidnapping victims, and to discuss a kidnapping plan.

9. As set forth in more detail below, based on the Court-authorized review of CC-1's e-mail accounts, I learned that following the New Jersey meeting, CC-1, ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," and RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," the defendants, continued to communicate about kidnapping and committing violence toward women and children, including Victim-1, Victim-2, and the Minor Victims.

10. The following are excerpts from the e-mail communications between CC-1 and ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," the defendant:

From July 23, 2012 to August 2, 2012:

CC-1: . . . trying to still find someone to help me with my sis in law.

ASCH: well, it might still be possible to do something, but again, the main issue is your role and preventing you from being considered as a suspect.

. . .

ASCH: if your wife and sister-in-law both disappear, i think that would be considered highly suspicious, and there could be a huge investigation. i assume your sister-in-law is your wife's sister?

CC-1: yes and i have thought that too which is why i want to grab only one preferably my sis in law but if cant ill take my wife

ASCH: i think that's a better idea. is there any way you'd be considered a suspect if the sister-in-law disappears? does anyone know or think that you don't get along, for example?

CC-1: my wife is the only one that knows we dont get along and actually she wouldnt think id do it but also thinking more along the lines of my wife being raped and killed interested to know more

ASCH: that'd be better. you'd need to have an alibi, like being at work. what about guilt, though? have you thought it through and will you feel any guilt if she disappears? what about her relationship with the kids? do they love each other and how will the kids feel?

CC-1: shes started to beat the kids and me im tired of her bitching i want her gone were even in the process of divorce also i have two ways id like her to go if your are interested I can send you pics and tell you more

ASCH: yes, i'd like to know more.

. . .

CC-1: . . . another is [MELTZ] said he could break in as a repair guy choke her out and while shes out we could rape her you and me and than hang her above the ground or take her to his place and hang her after hours or a day or to and another is we choke her till out and wrap and lock a belt around her neck to see her struggle on the floor till dead and also the hanging one could be a suicide because she tried to hang herself before

August 2, 2012:

ASCH: what's your feeling about the kids? do you love them or do you want them done too? you don't care whether the new baby lives or not?

CC-1: no i do not but i dont want the kids done cause when my daughter gets older im going to start raping her and have her attached to me so i can fuck her when i want and play roleplay games with her and at some point hang her to death.

ASCH: that's a very hot plan. would love to do her with you if that'd be a turn on for you.

. . .

ASCH: . . . train her right from the start.

CC-1: exactly

11. The following are excerpts from e-mail communications between CC-1 and RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," the defendant:

July 12 and July 13, 2012

CC-1: . . . what would you do with the 9 year old my sis in laws kid I want to hang

MELTZ: you want to hang the 9 yo? that gets me hard to think about. I would rather manually choke her but hanging is nice also

CC-1: she has 4 kids i just want her and the 9 [year old] only the 9 i want to rape and hang and rape whils she hangs but i want to turn her into the 3 way interested than as she dies we make the sis in law watch than rape and s[t]rangle the sis in law.

MELTZ: damn I like the way you think

. . .

CC-1: . . . how do you propose we grab my sis inlaw

MELTZ: we go over there she knows you let's us in we choke her out tie her up throw her in the back of your car take her someplace and slowly do her

. . .

CC-1: i like that idea or we could go in the moms house while she and the kids sleep tie her up and smother her till out than take her and put her in the car and grab the kids reakfast telling them we have somewhere to go than kill them . . .

12. On or about December 12, 2012, at the request and direction of the FBI, CC-1 e-mailed ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," and RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," the defendants. CC-1 told each of the defendants that he would like to meet to discuss plans to kill Victim-1. MELTZ replied that he would like to meet. During this time period, an FBI agent working in an undercover capacity ("UC-1") began to communicate with ASCH and MELTZ over email.

13. On or about January 5, 2013, UC-1, posing as an individual interested in planning and carrying out the kidnapping, rape, and murder of women and children, e-mailed ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," the defendant. In e-mail exchanges, they discussed their shared interest in committing violent acts against women, and ASCH provided his home telephone number to UC-1. UC-1 contacted ASCH on the phone number provided, and scheduled an in-person meeting at a location in Lower Manhattan.

14. On or about January 7, 2013, UC-1 and ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," the defendant, met at the designated location to discuss a kidnapping plan. A number of in-person meetings followed, including on or about January 18,

2013, January 25, 2013, February 15, 2013, March 13, 2013, and other dates. In addition, UC-1 and ASCH spoke on the phone on numerous occasions about the kidnapping, and to schedule in-person planning meetings. These conversations were recorded by FBI agents.

15. On or about February 15, 2013, during an in-person meeting in Manhattan, UC-1 introduced ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," the defendant, to another FBI agent working in an undercover capacity ("UC-2"), and told ASCH that UC-2 was interested in participating in a kidnapping. Because ASCH had previously suggested to UC-1 certain methods of identifying random female victims to kidnap, UC-1 and UC-2, in the interests of public safety, proposed targeting a specific female, who was actually an FBI agent working in an undercover capacity ("UC-3"). UC-1 and UC-2 showed ASCH "surveillance" pictures that they had purportedly taken. ASCH agreed to target UC-3, and began planning for the abduction, rape, torture, and murder of UC-3. ASCH left this meeting with a picture of UC-3 in his possession.

16. On or about March 13, 2013, UC-1, UC-2, and ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," the defendant, met at a location in Manhattan to plan the kidnapping of UC-3. ASCH brought to the meeting a bag containing a number of items ASCH believed were necessary for a successful kidnapping. These items included, among other things, a black ski mask, hypodermic needles, a pair of handcuffs, a hammer, leather ties, chrome forceps, screws and bolts, a three-page gun show itinerary, documents relating to a "leg-spreader" and "dental retractor," and the liquid form of doxepin hydrochloride, an anti-psychotic that is commonly used as a sleep agent.

17. During the meeting on or about March 13, 2013, ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," the defendant, along with UC-1 and UC-2, conducted surveillance of UC-3, the intended victim, as she left her purported work place. ASCH, upon viewing UC-3, stated "She has to die."

18. In or about early March 2013, ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," the defendant, informed UC-1 that ASCH's friend, "Rick," later identified by the FBI as RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," the defendant, was interested in participating in the kidnapping of UC-3. ASCH provided UC-1 with MELTZ's cellular telephone number.

19. On or about March 5, 2013, UC-1 placed a recorded call to RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," the defendant. During this conversation, MELTZ told UC-1 in sum and substance, and in part, that MELTZ had an interest in having his own wife killed, but feared getting caught. MELTZ also discussed with UC-1 logistics for the kidnapping of UC-3, including the risks associated with kidnapping a woman in a public, urban area.

20. On or about February 8, 2013, a federal judge in this district authorized the interception of wire communications over the home telephone of ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," the defendant.¹ Pursuant to this Order, the FBI intercepted numerous telephonic communications between ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," and RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," the defendants, in February, March, and April 2013, during which MELTZ, who claimed to have kidnapped and murdered women in the past, advised and assisted ASCH with respect to the kidnap and murder of women.

21. For example, on or about February 22, 2013, ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," the defendant, called RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," the defendant, to discuss the details of the unfolding plan to kidnap, rape, torture, and kill UC-3. The following is an excerpt from that conversation²:

ASCH: . . . I just wanted to catch you up. I've been meeting with [UC-1] and finally met his friend [UC-2] last week. So, you know, he's got somebody in mind that he wants to do, so I wanted to see what your situation was, and, this would be something that we're still planning for. They've been kinda staking her out and taking pictures and all that kind of stuff.

. . .

ASCH: . . . Anyways, this is the ex-wife of a buddy of [UC-2's] and she lives in Hoboken kinda in an isolated area, I mean, I thought Hoboken was pretty urban...

¹ On or about March 13, 2013, the continued interception of communications over ASCH's home telephone was court authorized.

² Some of the conversations intercepted over the wire have been transcribed, and the excerpts set forth herein are based on those transcriptions. The transcriptions are preliminary, and are subject to modification.

MELTZ: I thought, yeah. . .

ASCH: At any rate, [UC-2] lives upstate a bit, up in the Hudson Valley, and I guess he's got a place to bring her and that kind of thing. So anyway, I'm kinda getting together some equipment and stuff, and um, so that's what we're thinking of doing. We wanted to see if you were interested in meeting them.

MELTZ: Well, it's a very exciting proposition when you think about it. Can I strangle her?

ASCH: Um, I think [UC-2] wants to hang her.

MELTZ: Oh.

ASCH: I think, uh, you know, well it depends, if they do the takedown and stuff, I guess, you know, I have no problem with [UC-2] doing it...

. . . .

ASCH: I'm open to other things as well, other methods (laughing).

MELTZ: I like that, too, yeah. Very, very, very exciting. To think about meeting a group like that.

ASCH: Yup.

MELTZ: Wow.

ASCH: At any rate, it turns out [Individual-1] in Boston, [UC-1] did talk to him, and [Individual -1] said he didn't think he could really go through with it, which was a surprise to me

MELTZ: Oh

ASCH: So I'm sort of leaving him out of the picture at the moment. I mean, we're glad that he told us, ahead of time, but it doesn't sound like he could really go through with it . . . Then there's [Individual-2], and he said he might be able to, schedule's flexible enough that he might be able to get here to do something. But again, I'd also like to meet him before actually doing anything. But we're also trying to do things like divide up the responsibilities,

and stuff, they're very, again, their military training, each person is responsible for something or other.

MELTZ: Correct, and then as long as everybody does their job the plan goes well. And if not you have to improvise along the way but if you have that background it's easier to improvise.

Later in the conversation, ASCH asked MELTZ if he had ever tried before to get a taser gun, and stated that he (ASCH) may look online for one. MELTZ explained that it may be easier to get one in "Pennsylvania, like for a gun show or something, they have all kinds of different things and weapons, even tasers. I know knives, you just walk up there, pay your money, and walk away with something and there's no record or anything of it." MELTZ also warned ASCH about the risks of looking for a weapon online.

22. On or about March 3, 2013, ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," and RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," the defendants, spoke by telephone about the kidnapping of UC-3 and other potential victims. The following is an excerpt from that conversation:

MELTZ: So, I did get an opportunity yesterday to do some cruising around and stuff.

ASCH: Yeah.

MELTZ: Nothing happened, but it was exciting picking out potential[] [victims].

ASCH: Yeah. And where did you go?

MELTZ: Well, I was just, you know, up in parts of New Hampshire.

ASCH: The area? Yeah.

MELTZ: Yeah, that's where basically we stayed. I cruised a little bit down into Massachusetts.

ASCH: Yeah. Good.

MELTZ: So, uh, what's new with you? What's going on?

ASCH: Uh, well we're still trying to plan something here, uh, I think I told you I met with [UC-1] and [UC-2], and uh, that was a good meeting, and uh, so we're you know we're trying to get to know each other, and uh, try to plan something. Uh, this uh bitch that [UC-2] has in mind is the ex-wife of a buddy of his.

MELTZ: Right, right. You told me about that.

ASCH: Yeah, and uh, anyway I went on some sites to look for like stun guns and stuff. And, I know we talked about that last time, but uh, looks like they won't deliver it to states where it's illegal, you know, to own them so New York, New Jersey, and so forth, uh, you can't...

MELTZ: Oh absolutely, they will not. Nope.

ASCH: No ... So, uh, I guess what we'd have to do is uh go to a gun show. And uh, so I just wanted to uh see, you know, when you might be, uh, coming down here ... and where they ... I did look online but now I can't remember when they're gonna be held, but there's some in like the Lehigh Valley I think in Pennsylvania?

MELTZ: Right, there's Mount Bethel, Pennsylvania. They hold one once or twice a year. And, there's should be coming up. I think that it's in April.

ASCH: Uh huh. And I think that there's some in New Hampshire. I didn't look too closely, but uh...

MELTZ: You know what I could ... it didn't even dawn on me. I could walk into a gun shop. There's hundreds ... here.

ASCH: Yeah.

MELTZ: And just, and just see what's available, and what you have to do to buy one...

ASCH: Yeah.

MELTZ: The whole nine yards. I can certainly investigate that part of it.

...

ASCH: Right. Uh, just trying to think of, uh, how to keep it³ from screaming and being heard, you know...but uh.

MELTZ: I'm sorry, what?

ASCH: How to keep it, yeah, from screaming and being heard. But, uh...

MELTZ: Yeah, yeah.

ASCH: That's why I thought.

MELTZ: Yeah, yeah.

ASCH: A taser would be uh, you know, would be good. But.

MELTZ: That would be optimal in most situations. And I know, uh, guys who have used it before.

ASCH: Yeah.

MELTZ: In doing people.⁴

ASCH: Yeah.

MELTZ: Uh.

ASCH: Yeah. Have you seen them demonstrate it? I mean, do you know if there's a difference in the amount of voltage and so forth, that uh.

MELTZ: I certainly see ... I've only seen one demonstrated.

ASCH: Um hm.

MELTZ: And the voltage was enough where once it hit, it just ... they're just silence and stunned.

ASCH: Yeah.

³ In this context, "it" is likely a reference to the intended victim.

⁴ In this context, "in doing people" likely refers to past acts of violence.

MELTZ: It's not. It's not. They just go down. It's not even a situation of screaming or anything else.

ASCH: Yes, yeah. That's what I thought would be the safer thing, you know, Uh. Because then they could just grab it. It doesn't seem to be very heavy, you know, and just uh.

MELTZ: Well, it's not heavy. I mean, it depends...there are tasers that shoot. You can get a taser that shoots 25 feet, or 30 feet.

ASCH: Yeah.

MELTZ: And it's attached to the wires. But, you can also get tasers that you just walk up behind and zap them ... and it's ... it'll knock somebody out.

ASCH: That's what I was thinking of. Yeah.

MELTZ: For a couple of ... about 30, 40 seconds it'll just make them completely limp.

ASCH: Yeah, yeah.

MELTZ: And that should be enough. But then after that, you know, you're still talking about timing. And even in a military operation, it's, it's gonna be kind of tough to get the timing down.

23. On or about April 3, 2013, ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," and RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," the defendants, spoke on the telephone about the kidnapping of UC-3 and other potential victims. The following is an excerpt from that conversation:

MELTZ: Did you hear anything from [UC-1] and company?

ASCH: . . . I'm actually going to go down to that [gun] show in Allentown on Saturday, I'm going to take the bus down, and go to that, see what I can find, and then we'll see. Then, you know, we'll meet and stuff, we still have lots of things to work out. I think we need to answer the big question, which is can the three of us carry this off or is it too big of an operation and should we wait until [UC-2] comes back. He's going back to the Middle East, I think, in May, for about a month, a month and a half. He wants to do it before he goes but it just may make sense to

put it off and wait until he comes back. So, we'll see. I don't know

. . . .

ASCH: Yeah, so, anyways, I went to Home Depot and picked up some things I thought we could use, like duct tape and a bucket, and some cable ties, and I've been getting toys and stuff, I've ordered some things through the mail so I got a couple of speculums and I got another mouth gag and so, been collecting stuff like that. At any rate. Got some masks.

MELTZ: There you go. You don't want to be recognized, either. So that's one of the good things about that.

ASCH: Although it's getting to be the wrong time of year to be wearing masks but.

MELTZ: And you're absolutely correct. Soon it will be too warm out to really justify wearing gloves . . . So it's just going to have to be something you put on just prior to.

ASCH: Yeah. So, I think we just have to think. This is a fairly high-risk operation. I mean, as far as I'm concerned. Trying to snatch somebody off the street, home invasion, I think they're pretty high-risk. So, I think we just have to kinda think whether we can do it or whether we should have more people involved.

MELTZ: But the difficulty with more people is you never know if you're going to get that weak link who's going to cave in or whatever.

ASCH: I think that it's a matter of, even if we do meet some new people, it's going to take some time to get to know them and trust them and so forth, so it could be a while but I think it will be worth it.

. . . .

MELTZ: I've been doing some hunting up here and so far not successful but I've been looking and seeing things and you know, working with . . . So.

ASCH: Well, the thing is, when I was talking about risk. There is risk just in trying to snatch somebody off the street and not be seen and stuff, but also, she will attract attention, she will be missed and she will end up in the press and, you know, so that's its own kind of, intense, thing, and there will be a full investigation.

MELTZ: Correct.

. . . .

MELTZ: . . . It's interesting to see how these things are solved. It's not always with forensics. But the vast majority of the time, like, if they ever find, what's her name, if they go after her body, now they get forensics and if anybody has like, [UC-1] OR [UC-2], apparently if they're in the military, they have their DNA on file in their national bank. They might not even think that. But they do. Because our military injuries, they get blown to bits, they want to be able to ID them. So that's why they have their DNA. So if these guys get careless in any way shape or form, if they leave blood at the scene, if she struggles or whatever it might be, DNA is like, extremely effective. Except for OJ, he got away with it. But everybody else gets nailed.

ASCH: Right. Well, I didn't realize that the military was doing that as a matter of course but I guess that makes sense. They would want it to identify remains and stuff, you know.

MELTZ: That's actually why. They have this DNA bank now. And if these guys do something and leave a blood trail, or leave something behind, or skin under some nails or whatever it might be, they have to be particularly careful because, as opposed to you, who's never been tested or had DNA samples taken, they have.

ASCH: Yeah. The only thing I have are fingerprints through the Department of Education,⁵ but...

MELTZ: Correct. But that's easy, you just wear gloves and you don't have fingerprints.

⁵ According to publicly available records, ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," the defendant, was formerly employed as a librarian at a public high school in New York, New York.

ASCH: Right.

MELTZ: So, I mean, that's not even a little problem. The big problem is the DNA. You know. As we said, murder is easy, getting away with it is not.

ASCH: Right, right. Yeah, well, I don't know. I think we have to think long and hard about whether we should try to do this soon or whether we should wait. I mean we will try to minimize risk like having the stun gun and so forth.

MELTZ: Every time you do anything it's a risk. And like you said, all you can try to do is minimize it.

CA: Right.

MELTZ: Because the end result is going to be fantastic.

. . .

ASCH: Back to DNA . . . [I was told] "oh you have to get rid of the teeth and their fingers" and stuff. And I said, well, but he makes it sound like it's just a matter of unscrewing a tooth and tossing it away. Have you ever tried to do anything like that? Like pull somebody's teeth out?

MELTZ: No. I never did anything with teeth or anything.

ASCH: First of all, I think it's entirely too much work.

MELTZ: Yes. And there's no reason, by the time they find the skeletal remains there's no DNA left to take, anyways. Their DNA is there so they can figure out who's, you know...The DNA from anybody else is going to be long gone. Not going to stick now because that's in the tissue. So the teeth only show who that person is but now they have DNA. It used to be that they looked for the teeth all the time, too. But now they don't.

ASCH: They don't use dental records anymore?

MELTZ: Well sometimes they do. They can use dental records for identification purposes if the DNA is not on file. That's just it. There are a lot of people who never have

their DNA on file so they would have to use some other way to ID them.

ASCH: Yeah. They could probably get DNA out of the bone marrow, though, don't you think?

MELTZ: Yes. They could get it out of the bone marrow but that would be their DNA, or her DNA.

ASCH: That's right. Yeah. He was trying to say, oh you have to get rid of their teeth and their fingers so they can't identify them and stuff but it just seems like an awful lot of work.

MELTZ: It's totally sadistic. It's not hard to saw fingers off ... hands off, and to totally just take a body apart. Dismember a body.

ASCH: Yeah.

MELTZ: I mean, it gets bloody sometimes, it's not as bloody as when they're alive and you saw them apart, but you know, certainly it is bloody and more blood than you would get if you just left the body there. No, I never did that.

ASCH: Yeah.

. . . .

MELTZ: Once you have a dead body you can do anything you want with it. I mean she's not going to complain. I actually don't think there's a problem with that. It's just a matter of spending the proper time. You remove the teeth, you're going to remove that part of any dental ID.. And you're going to remove, you take the fingers, that's just going to be able to ID the palm, you slit her hand off at the wrists, and stuff. Now if they don't have DNA and they find this body there, I mean, maybe you can just chop off the head, and don't worry about pulling the teeth. And you put the head someplace. So, I mean, there are ways to dismember and dispose.

. . . .

MELTZ: . . . It's challenges, but they're exciting challenges to work through.

ASCH: That's true.

MELTZ: That's all a matter of part of the excitement, the enjoyment, is setting the whole thing up. You prey, some prey is not going to be, it's going to be much easier to get to, than other prey. And it's just a matter of either luck or plans and eventually it happens.

ASCH: Yup. Well, and it's timing, too, and I think we just have to consider all those factors, you know.

MELTZ: Yup. You're absolutely right. It's timing, too. It's a matter of getting everything in. When I was on the hunt, and even up here, I'm an old guy, but I'm still looking, when you're on a hunt most of this is going to turn out to be fruitless in the end but the excitement and the adrenaline rush is incredible when you're hunting some prey and they have no idea or concept that they're being followed. They're just in their own little nitwit world. On the phone doing what they have to do. They have no concept that within minutes or seconds they could be fighting a futile fight for their life.

ASCH: Right.

MELTZ: And that's all part of it. That's part of the excitement and thrill, too. But again, I can only say that the vast majority of hunts turn out to be no good. And that's why it would be great if you and I were together, to go out and just hunt, because this way we have that opportunity. You know, if it turns out good, this way you may see something that I don't see, I see something you don't see. And we give ourselves a signal and we go for it.

ASCH: Yeah, that's why I like the idea of partners or a small group because there's more eyes to keep watch, there's more arms to restrain, and, as long as you can trust the guys you're working with, I think it just makes sense.

MELTZ: Yup. I agree with you 100%. It's a matter of working together, it's a matter of trust, it's a matter of a lot of different things. But it's something that really, again, if you can get one person, if you can get two or three, that's fantastic. Like you've got a group of three,

there's no prey that's going to be able to get out of that. Once you make your move.

ASCH: Yeah.

MELTZ: Even two you could overpower anyone. So, um, and it's funny, once you get that ligature around their neck, whether it's a tie, cord, whatever it might be. Some fight like hell, others just surrender. They just sit there and hold onto it. Just, "what are you doing, what are you doing, please stop..." (UI) back and you're done. Now, it's so individual in that basis, too, they all deserve it. They all should get it.

24. Throughout this investigation, the FBI has intercepted numerous phone calls similar to the April 3, 2013 call described above, in which RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," the defendant, provides advice, information, and assistance to ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," the defendant, on how to avoid detection and minimize the risks associated with abducting and murdering a woman. Examples of the techniques suggested by MELTZ include the avoidance of toll roads, using rental cars, paying for "tools" in cash, looking for victims in desolate areas who are engaged in other activities (such as talking on the phone), abducting victims at night, and using disguises when first approaching a potential victim.⁶

25. On or about April 6, 2013, FBI agents followed ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," the defendant, from Manhattan, New York, to Allentown, Pennsylvania, where they observed him attend a gun show and purchase a taser gun.

26. On or about April 7, 2013, UC-1 placed a recorded call to ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," the defendant. During this call, ASCH informed UC-1 that he had purchased the taser gun and promised to show it to him.

27. On or about April 11, 2013, UC-1 placed a recorded call to RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," the defendant. During this call, MELTZ told UC-1 that he would be travelling to New Jersey on Friday, April 12, 2013, and they agreed to try to

⁶ The FBI has learned, through this investigation, that RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," the defendant, has a law enforcement background and is currently employed in the law enforcement field.

meet during the weekend to discuss the kidnapping of UC-3. The following is an excerpt from that call:

UC-1: Um, so uh you know, again, whatever works for you, man. Seriously.

MELTZ: Ok, I'm just trying to think like if, where there's a spot. I can't think right now 'cause every time I talk to ya all I keep thinking about, I get I get, sorry, I get aroused here. Not from you, but from the thought of what we could do.

UC-1: Well, uh . . . there's nothin' wrong with that. I mean, uh, especially if it's not with me if it's what the thought of what we could do 'cause brother I'm telling ya we could do some good things.

MELTZ: Oh yeah, no absolutely, absolutely. Um.

UC-1: And I wanna, you know, if you want, man, I wanna talk to you a little bit about what we're doin', you know, get your two cents and fuckin' make sure you know you don't find any holes in it or some shit like that, you know, and just see what you think. But again it's probably better off in person.

MELTZ: Yeah, I, uh. Man I would just like to get you your first experience doing someone all the way.

UC-1: Well, let's talk about it man. I mean I'm, uh, look I'm an amenable person if the situation is right, you know and shit, if the situation is right I'm an amenable person, so why don't we, uh, make something happen man. I mean by that let's meet up, let's talk about it.

MELTZ: Yep, I think that's a great idea. Um, I'm just wondering . . . shit.

UC-1: What's that? Say again?

MELTZ: No no just speaking to myself, how maybe you and [ASCH] could hook up and come and talk to me about my trains at my house that way I'll know no one will overhear, no one will, uh, you know we'll just sit and talk about the uh, the trains and no one will hear, you know what I'm saying? And we can go outside and talk a little bit, it'd

be completely, it's not like we're in a booth with somebody listening.

UC-1: Right, right. Well I mean if you think you can get, uh, I mean it sounds like your wife is the only issue, um, if you have family commitments, uh, cuz brother I mean I'm up for meeting, I really am, so...

MELTZ: Yeah. The only ones that'll be there on Sunday are gonna be my wife and myself.

UC-1: Okay.

MELTZ: So I mean, the only ones that are gonna be there on Sunday are my wife and myself, so like the family commitments are over, that's when I'm gonna get out.

UC-1: Gotcha, gotcha. Let's talk again a little bit. I'm gonna make some calls in a minute and see what I can do about a car. Uh, are you around tonight?

MELTZ: Oh yeah, I'm here all night. Uh, probably gonna get to sleep somewhere around nine thirty ten.

UC-1: Sounds good.

MELTZ: And then tomorrow afternoon, at three o'clock I'm leaving work, so from three to whenever I get back to New Jersey to my house, I'm free to talk too.

UC-1: Alright good. Well then let's chat, um, I'll call you in like an hour or so I should be, uh, should be hopefully I've found figured out this whole car thing by then, and we'll, uh, we'll firm it up.

MELTZ: Yeah, that'd be kinda cool.

UC-1: That sound good?

MELTZ: Yeah, and then like I said if you want we could either meet some way on the way back on Sunday or if you want you and Chris or you yourself whatever it is could come out to the house in Jersey and show you the trains we could sit there and talk a little bit we could sit there and see if we couldn't work out a price, it's no big deal.

UC-1: That sounds good.

MELTZ: Yeah, then we could get, you know, then we could.

UC-1: Well . . .

MELTZ: It just, and I know this is a sick thing, but if this turns me on, you know, you give me your thoughts on [killing] my wife, too.

UC-1: Hey brother that sounds good man, I mean, uh.

MELTZ: You know [unintelligible] look at her talk, watch her swallow, things of this nature.

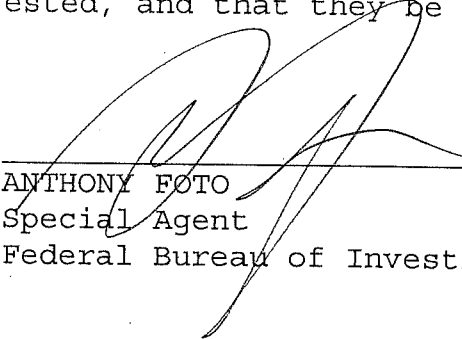
UC-1: We'll make one of those things happen, man, you know I'll come out to you by myself or I'll come out to you with Chris or, uh, we'll meet at a, uh, at a spot you know either tomorrow or maybe if Sunday works best then on Sunday. But um . . .

MELTZ: Wonderful, man.

28. On or about April 14, 2013, RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," met with UC-1 at a location in New Jersey. This meeting was recorded and observed by FBI agents. At the meeting, MELTZ and UC-1 discussed, among other things, the kidnapping and murder of UC-3. MELTZ advised UC-1 on how best to dispose of UC-3's body, including how to transport it from the crime scene to a desolate location in the woods in upstate New York. MELTZ told UC-1 in sum and substance, and in part, that given the weather this time of year, if UC-3's body were left in the woods, wild animals would likely find and destroy it before law enforcement could find it.

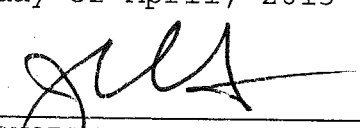
29. On or about April 15, 2013, ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," met UC-1 in lower Manhattan to conduct surveillance of UC-3. UC-1 and ASCH previously had discussed ASCH giving UC-1 the tools ASCH had gathered to use for the kidnapping, so that UC-1 could take them to the location where UC-3 was to be brought following her abduction. ASCH brought to the April 15 meeting two bags of tools intended to be used in the kidnapping, rape, torture, and murder of UC-3, including but not limited to a taser gun, rope, a meat hammer, duct tape, gloves, cleaning supplies, zip ties, a dental retractor, two speculums, 12-inch skewers, pliers, a wireless modem, and a leg spreader.

WHEREFORE, deponent respectfully requests that ROBERT CHRISTOPHER ASCH, a/k/a "Chris," and RICHARD MELTZ, a/k/a "Rick," the defendants, be arrested, and that they be imprisoned or bailed, as the case may be.



ANTHONY FOTO
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to before me this
15th day of April, 2013



THE HONORABLE JAMES C. FRANCIS IV
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK