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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN

Case:2:19-cr-20115  
Judge: Hood, Denise Page  
MJ: Majzoub, Mona K.  
Filed: 02-28-2019 At 04:16 PM  
INDI USA V. SEALED MATTER (DA)

United States of America,

Plaintiff,

v.

D-1, Romane Porter, and  
D-2, Daniel Onorati,

Defendants.

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Violations:

18 U.S.C. § 2313

18 U.S.C. § 2

18 U.S.C. § 371

**INDICTMENT**

The Grand Jury charges:

**COUNT ONE**

**18 U.S.C. §§ 2313 & 2 – Sale or possession of stolen motor vehicle**

**D-1, Romane Porter**

**D-2, Daniel Onorati**

On or about June 10, 2017, in the Eastern District of Michigan, defendants Romane Porter and Daniel Onorati, aiding and abetting each other and others, did receive, possess, conceal, store, barter, sell and dispose of a stolen motor vehicle, that is, a 2014 Volkswagen

Passat, VIN # 1VWBN7A39EC084835, which crossed a State boundary after being stolen, to wit, said vehicle being stolen from Pontiac, Michigan, prior to June 10, 2017, and subsequently brought into the State of Kentucky on June 11, 2017, knowing the same to have been stolen, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2313 and 2.

**COUNT TWO**

**18 U.S.C. §§ 2313 & 2 – Sale or possession of stolen motor vehicle**

**D-1, Romane Porter**

**D-2, Daniel Onorati**

On or about June 24, 2017, in the Eastern District of Michigan, defendants Romane Porter and Daniel Onorati, aiding and abetting each other and others, did receive, possess, conceal, store, barter, sell and dispose of a stolen motor vehicle, that is, a 2015 Volkswagen Passat, VIN # 1VWBV7A39FC085808, which crossed a State boundary after being stolen, to wit, said vehicle being stolen from Pontiac, Michigan, prior to June 24, 2017, and subsequently brought into the State of Indiana on June 25, 2017, knowing the same to have been stolen, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2313 and 2.

**COUNT THREE**

**18 U.S.C. §§ 2313 & 2 – Sale or possession of stolen motor vehicle**

**D-1, Romane Porter**

**D-2, Daniel Onorati**

On or about July 6, 2017, in the Eastern District of Michigan, defendants Romane Porter and Daniel Onorati, aiding and abetting each other and others, did receive, possess, conceal, store, barter, sell and dispose of a stolen motor vehicle, that is, a 2015 Volkswagen Passat, VIN # 1VWBV7A37FC006474, which crossed a State boundary after being stolen, to wit, said vehicle being stolen from Pontiac, Michigan, prior to July 6, 2017, and subsequently brought into the State of Kentucky on July 8, 2017, knowing the same to have been stolen, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2313 and 2.

**COUNT FOUR**

**18 U.S.C. §§ 2313 & 2 – Sale or possession of stolen motor vehicle**

**D-1, Romane Porter**

**D-2, Daniel Onorati**

On or about August 11, 2017, in the Eastern District of Michigan, defendants Romane Porter and Daniel Onorati, aiding and abetting each other and others, did receive, possess, conceal, store, barter, sell

and dispose of a stolen motor vehicle, that is, a 2012 Audi Q7, VIN # WA1WMAFE4CD006799, which crossed a State boundary after being stolen, to wit, said vehicle being stolen from Pontiac, Michigan, prior to August 11, 2017, and subsequently brought into the State of Kentucky on August 12, 2017, knowing the same to have been stolen, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2313 and 2.

**COUNT FIVE**

**18 U.S.C. §§ 2313 & 2 – Sale or possession of stolen motor vehicle**

**D-1, Romane Porter**

**D-2, Daniel Onorati**

On or about August 13, 2017, in the Eastern District of Michigan, defendants Romane Porter and Daniel Onorati, aiding and abetting each other and others, did receive, possess, conceal, store, barter, sell and dispose of a stolen motor vehicle, that is, a 2012 Volkswagen Touareg, VIN # WVGFK9BP4CD000319, which crossed a State boundary after being stolen, to wit, said vehicle being stolen from Pontiac, Michigan, prior to August 13, 2017, and subsequently brought into the State of Kentucky on August 13, 2017, knowing the same to have been stolen, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2313 and 2.

**COUNT SIX**

**18 U.S.C. §§ 2313 & 2 – Sale or possession of stolen motor vehicle**

**D-1, Romane Porter**

**D-2, Daniel Onorati**

On or about August 14, 2017, in the Eastern District of Michigan, defendants Romane Porter and Daniel Onorati, aiding and abetting each other and others, did receive, possess, conceal, store, barter, sell and dispose of a stolen motor vehicle, that is, a 2011 Volkswagen Touareg, VIN # WVGF9BP0BD003328, which crossed a State boundary after being stolen, to wit, said vehicle being stolen from Pontiac, Michigan, prior to August 14, 2017, and subsequently brought into the State of Kentucky on August 15, 2017, knowing the same to have been stolen, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2313 and 2.

**COUNT SEVEN**

**18 U.S.C. §§ 371 & 2313 – Sale or possession  
of stolen vehicles; conspiracy**

**D-1, Romane Porter**

**D-2, Daniel Onorati**

Beginning in or around March 2017, and continuing until on or around September 2017, both dates being approximate, in the Eastern

District of Michigan and elsewhere, defendants Romane Porter and Daniel Onorati knowingly and willfully combined, conspired, confederated, and agreed with each other and persons known and unknown to commit an offense against the United States of America, that is:

Porter and Onorati conspired with each other and others to steal approximately 61 Volkswagen and Audi vehicles from a lot in Pontiac, Michigan. Once in possession of the stolen vehicles, the defendants and others stored and sold or attempted to sell many of these stolen vehicles. Specifically, the defendants and others coordinated the sale and transportation of approximately 46 of the stolen Volkswagen and Audi vehicles from Michigan to other states or countries. Thus, these 46 vehicles crossed a State boundary after being stolen.

#### Manner and Means

It was part of the conspiracy that Porter and Onorati would recruit others to help steal the vehicles and drive them off of the Pontiac lot. It was part of the conspiracy that Porter and others recruited buyers for the vehicles, usually in other states. It was also

part of the conspiracy that Porter and others would hire companies to transport the vehicles across state lines.

#### Object of the conspiracy

One object of the conspiracy was to steal the vehicles and sell them for a profit.

#### Overt Acts

In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the objects of the conspiracy, the following overt acts, among others, were committed in the Eastern District of Michigan:

1. Beginning in or around March 2017, and continuing until on or around September 2017, both dates being approximate, the defendants, Porter and Onorati, recruited others both known and unknown to steal the vehicles from the Pontiac lot and physically drive them off of the Pontiac lot.
2. Beginning in or around June 2017, and continuing until in or around August 2017, both dates being approximate, defendant Porter recruited others in the Eastern District of Michigan, both known and unknown, to load approximately 46 of the stolen vehicles on vehicle transports in Michigan to move these vehicles

to other states within the United States. Further, at least one of the stolen vehicles was transferred from Michigan to another country.

3. Beginning in or around March 2017, and continuing until on or around September 2017, both dates being approximate, the defendants, Porter and Onorati, recruited others to purchase the stolen vehicles.

All of this was done in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 371 and 2313.

**FORFEITURE ALLEGATION**

**18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C), 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(5), and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c)**

The allegations contained in counts one through seven of this Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference to allege forfeiture under Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(5), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

Upon conviction of the offense in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2 and 2313, the defendants shall forfeit to the United States of America, under Title 18, United States Code, Section



982(a)(5), any property, real or personal, which represents or is traceable to the gross proceeds obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of the offense.

Upon conviction of the conspiracy to violate Title 18, United States Code, Section 2313, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, the defendants shall forfeit to the United States of America, under Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the offense.

The forfeiture in this case may include entry of a forfeiture money judgment in an amount up to the value of the property subject to forfeiture for the violations of conviction.

If, by any act or omission of the defendants, the proceeds of the offenses: cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence, have been transferred, sold to, or deposited with a third party, have been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court, have been substantially diminished in value, or have been commingled with other property which cannot be

divided without difficulty, the United States of America shall seek to forfeit substitute property under Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b)(1) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

**THIS IS A TRUE BILL.**

*s/Grand Jury Foreperson*  
Grand Jury Foreperson

Matthew Schneider  
United States Attorney

*s/Matthew A. Roth*  
Matthew A. Roth  
Chief, Major Crimes Unit  
Assistant United States Attorney  
211 W. Fort St., Suite 2001  
Detroit, MI 48226-3220  
(313) 226-9186  
Matthew.Roth2@usdoj.gov

*s/Hank Moon*  
Hank Moon  
Assistant United States Attorney  
211 W. Fort St., Suite 2001  
Detroit, MI 48226-3220  
(313) 226-0220  
Hank.Moon@usdoj.gov  
Bar No: DC 1026010

Dated: February 28, 2019

United States District Court  
Eastern District of Michigan

**Criminal Case Co**

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NOTE: It is the responsibility of the Assistant U.S. Attorney signing this form to complete...

<b>Companion Case Information</b>	Companion Case Number:
This may be a companion case based upon LCrR 57.10 (b)(4) <sup>1</sup> :	Judge Assigned:
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	AUSA's Initials: <i>[Signature]</i>

Case Title: USA v. Romane Porter and Daniel Onorati

County where offense occurred : Oakland

Check One:     Felony                       Misdemeanor                       Petty

- Indictment/\_\_\_ Information --- no prior complaint.
- Indictment/\_\_\_ Information --- based upon prior complaint [Case number: \_\_\_\_\_]
- Indictment/\_\_\_ Information --- based upon LCrR 57.10 (d) [Complete Superseding section below].

**Superseding Case Information**

Superseding to Case No: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

- Corrects errors; no additional charges or defendants.
- Involves, for plea purposes, different charges or adds counts.
- Embraces same subject matter but adds the additional defendants or charges below:

<u>Defendant name</u>	<u>Charges</u>	<u>Prior Complaint (if applicable)</u>
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Please take notice that the below listed Assistant United States Attorney is the attorney of record for the above captioned case.

February 28, 2019  
Date

*[Signature]*

Hank Moon  
Assistant United States Attorney  
211 W. Fort Street, Suite 2001  
Detroit, MI 48226-3277  
Phone: 313-226-0220  
Fax: 313-226-2372  
E-Mail address: Hank.Moon@usdoj.gov  
Attorney Bar #: DC 1026010

<sup>1</sup> Companion cases are matters in which it appears that (1) substantially similar evidence will be offered at trial, or (2) the same or related parties are present, and the cases arise out of the same transaction or occurrence. Cases may be companion cases even though one of them may have already been terminated.