

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

**CASE NO. 21-CR-20589-MIDDLEBROOKS/TORRES**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**vs.**

**GEORGE SEMERENE,**

**Defendant.**

<b>COURT EXHIBIT</b>
21-20589CR-
CASE NO. MIDDLEBROOKS
EXHIBIT NO. A

**PLEA AGREEMENT**

The United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida ("this Office") and George Semerene (the "defendant") enter into the following agreement:

1. The defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count 1 of the Indictment. Count 1 charges the defendant with conspiring to export goods to Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A. ("PdVSA") in violation of the prohibitions imposed on PdVSA by the United States government, in violation of Title 50, United States Code, Section 1705.

2. The defendant is aware that the sentence will be imposed by the Court after considering the advisory Federal Sentencing Guidelines and Policy Statements (hereinafter "Sentencing Guidelines"). The defendant acknowledges and understands that the Court will compute an advisory sentence under the Sentencing Guidelines and that the applicable guidelines will be determined by the Court relying in part on the results of a pre-sentence investigation by the Court's probation office, which investigation will commence after the guilty plea has been entered. The defendant is also aware that, under certain circumstances, the Court may depart from the advisory sentencing guideline range that it has computed and may raise or lower that advisory sentence under the Sentencing Guidelines. The defendant is further aware and understands that the Court is required to consider the advisory guideline range determined under the Sentencing

Guidelines but is not bound to impose a sentence within that advisory range; the Court is permitted to tailor the ultimate sentence in light of other statutory concerns, and such sentence may be either more severe or less severe than the Sentencing Guidelines' advisory range. Knowing these facts, the defendant understands and acknowledges that the Court has the authority to impose any sentence within and up to the statutory maximum authorized by law for the offense identified in paragraph one and that the defendant may not withdraw the plea solely as a result of the sentence imposed.

3. The defendant also understands and acknowledges that the Court may impose a statutory maximum term of imprisonment of up to twenty (20) years, followed by a term of supervised release of up to three (3) years. In addition to a term of imprisonment and supervised release, the Court may impose a fine of up to \$250,000.00 or twice the value of the transaction, whichever is greater, and may order forfeiture and restitution.

4. The defendant further understands and acknowledges that, in addition to any sentence imposed under paragraph three of this agreement, a special assessment in the amount of \$100.00 will be imposed on the defendant. The defendant agrees that any special assessment imposed shall be paid at the time of sentencing. If the defendant is financially unable to pay the special assessment, the defendant agrees to present evidence to this Office and the Court at the time of sentencing as to the reasons for the defendant's failure to pay.

5. This Office reserves the right to inform the Court and the probation office of all facts pertinent to the sentencing process, including all relevant information concerning the offenses committed, whether charged or not, as well as concerning the defendant and the defendant's background. Subject only to the express terms of any agreed-upon sentencing recommendations contained in this agreement, this Office further reserves the right to make any recommendation as to the quality and quantity of punishment.

6. This Office agrees that it will recommend at sentencing that the Court reduce by three (3) offense levels the sentencing guideline level applicable to the defendant's offense, pursuant to Section 3E1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines, based upon the defendant's recognition and affirmative and timely acceptance of personal responsibility. However, this Office will not be required to make this sentencing recommendation if the defendant: (1) fails or refuses to make full, accurate and complete disclosure to the probation office of the circumstances surrounding the relevant offense conduct; (2) is found to have misrepresented facts to the government prior to entering this plea agreement; or (3) commits any misconduct after entering into this plea agreement, including but not limited to committing a state or federal offense, violating any term of release, or making false statements or misrepresentations to any governmental entity or official.

7. The defendant is aware that the sentence has not yet been determined by the Court. The defendant also is aware that any estimate of the probable sentencing range or sentence that the defendant may receive, whether that estimate comes from the defendant's attorney, this Office, or the probation office, is a prediction, not a promise, and is not binding on this Office, the probation office or the Court. The defendant understands further that any recommendation that this Office makes to the Court as to sentencing, whether pursuant to this agreement or otherwise, is not binding on the Court and the Court may disregard the recommendation in its entirety. The defendant understands and acknowledges, as previously acknowledged in paragraph two above, that the defendant may not withdraw his plea based upon the Court's decision not to accept a sentencing recommendation made by the defendant, this Office, or a recommendation made jointly by the defendant and this Office.

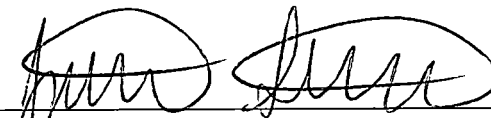
8. Defendant recognizes that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to the defendant's immigration status if the defendant is not a citizen of the United States. Under federal law, a broad range of crimes are removable offenses, including the offense to which

defendant is pleading guilty. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding, however, and defendant understands that no one, including the defendant's attorney or the Court, can predict to a certainty the effect of the defendant's conviction on the defendant's immigration status. Defendant nevertheless affirms that the defendant wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that may result from the defendant's plea, even if the consequence is the defendant's automatic removal from the United States.

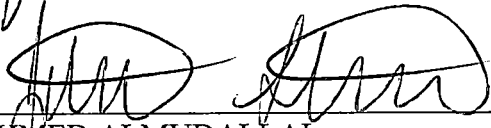
9. This is the entire agreement and understanding between this Office and the defendant. There are no other agreements, promises, representations, or understandings.

MARKENZY LAPOINTE  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Date: 8/20/24

  
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JONATHAN D. STRATTON  
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Date: 8/20/24

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
AHMED ALMUDALLAL  
TRIAL ATTORNEY  
NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

Date: 8/20/24

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GEORGE SEMERENE  
DEFENDANT

Date: 8/20/24

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KATE TAYLOR  
ASSISTANT FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER