

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the
Western District of Texas
Austin Division

United States of America

v.

Frank Richard Ahlgren, III

Defendant

Case No. 1:24-cr-31-RP

ORDER OF DETENTION PENDING TRIAL

Part I - Eligibility for Detention

On Motion of the Government attorney pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1), the Court held a detention hearing and found that detention is warranted. This order sets forth the Court’s findings of fact and conclusions of law, as required by 18 U.S.C. § 3142(i), in addition to any other findings made at the hearing.

Part II - Analysis and Statement of the Reasons for Detention

After considering the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g), the pretrial services report, and the evidence and arguments of counsel presented at the detention hearing, the Court concludes that the defendant must be detained pending trial because the Government has proven:

- By clear and convincing evidence that no condition or combination of conditions of release will reasonably assure the safety of the community.
[X] By a preponderance of evidence that no condition or combination of conditions of release will reasonably assure the defendant’s appearance as required.

In addition to any findings made on the record at the hearing, the reasons for detention include the following:

- [X] Weight of evidence against the defendant is strong
[] Subject to lengthy period of incarceration if convicted
[] Prior criminal history
[] Participation in criminal activity while on probation, parole, or supervision
[] History of violence or use of weapons
[] History of alcohol or substance abuse
[X] Lack of stable employment
[] Lack of stable residence
[] Lack of financially responsible sureties
[] Lack of significant community or family ties to this district
[X] Significant family or other ties outside the United States
[] Lack of legal status in the United States
[] Subject to removal or deportation after serving any period of incarceration
[] Prior failure to appear in court as ordered
[] Prior attempts to evade law enforcement

- Use of alias(es) or false documents
- Background information unknown or unverified
- Prior violations of probation, parole, or supervised release

Other Reasons or Further Explanation:

My decision is based on the identified factors and the findings made on the record at the detention hearing. The Government seeks to detain Mr. Ahlgren based on a serious risk that he will flee pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2)(A). Mr. Ahlgren appeared in court on a Writ of Habeas Corpus Ad Prosequendum from state court custody, where he has been confined since October 26, 2023 for eight separate acts of civil contempt. In this court, a grand jury has indicted Mr. Ahlgren on seven counts of filing false tax returns and structuring deposits to evade currency transaction reporting requirements. Based on the testimony and evidence presented at the detention hearing, the Court finds that the weight of the evidence against Mr. Ahlgren is strong. Additional evidence was presented that he has access to millions of dollars in Bitcoin and very strong ties to the country of El Salvador, where his wife lives and works and where he has traveled approximately 17 times since 2021 using three different passports. Considering the nature and circumstances of the alleged offenses and Mr. Ahlgren's history and characteristics, the Court finds that the Government has met its burden to show by a preponderance of the evidence that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure his appearance as required. Pursuant to the Court's finding that the relevant factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g) weigh in favor of detention, the Government's Motion for Detention of Defendant (Dkt. 6) is **GRANTED**.

Part IV - Directions Regarding Detention

The defendant is remanded to the custody of the Attorney General or to the Attorney General's designated representative for confinement in a corrections facility separate, to the extent practicable, from persons awaiting or serving sentences or being held in custody pending appeal. The defendant must be afforded a reasonable opportunity for private consultation with defense counsel. On order of a court of the United States or on request of an attorney for the Government, the person in charge of the corrections facility must deliver the defendant to a United States Marshal for the purpose of an appearance in connection with a court proceeding.

Date: April 10, 2024



Susan Hightower
United States Magistrate Judge