FJN:CWE/LM
F. #2026R00667

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- against -

RONALD JAVIER MACÍAS VILLAMAR,

Defendant.

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FILED
IN CLERK'S OFFICE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT E.D.N.Y.
* NOVEMBER 19, 2026 *
BROOKLYN OFFICE

I N D I C T M E N T

Cr. No. 26-CR-323
(T. 18, U.S.C., §§ 924(c)(1)(A)(i), 924(c)(1)(A)(ii), 924(c)(1)(A)(iii), 924(d)(1), 981(a)(1)(C), 981(a)(1)(G), 2339B(a)(1), 3238, 2 and 3551 et seq.; T. 21, U.S.C., §§ 853(a), 853(p), 959(a), 959(d), 960(a)(3), 960(b)(1)(B)(ii), 963 and 970; T. 28, U.S.C., § 2461(c))

Judge William F. Kuntz, II
Magistrate Judge Joseph A. Marutollo

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

INTRODUCTION

At all times relevant to this Indictment, unless otherwise indicated:

1. From at least 2016 until June 2025, the defendant RONALD JAVIER MACÍAS VILLAMAR was a high-ranking leader of Los Choneros, an international drug trafficking and transnational criminal organization. In or about and between July 2025 and November 2026, MACÍAS VILLAMAR was the principal leader of Los Choneros.

2. Los Choneros was one of Ecuador's most violent transnational criminal organizations and controlled key cocaine trafficking routes through Ecuador. Los Choneros operated a vast network responsible for the shipment and distribution of multi-ton quantities of cocaine from South America through Central America and Mexico to the United States and elsewhere. The vast majority of drugs trafficked by Los Choneros were imported into the United States, where the drugs were consumed. Los Choneros used violence, extortion and corruption as means and methods of achieving its goals.

3. Los Choneros worked with Mexican cartels, including the Sinaloa cartel, to transport cocaine from Colombia through Ecuador and into Mexico. This partnership was extremely profitable for Los Choneros and enabled the organization to grow in terms of membership, notoriety and wealth.

4. The leaders of Los Choneros, including the defendant RONALD JAVIER MACÍAS VILLAMAR, employed members who carried out numerous acts of violence. The leaders of Los Choneros directed and ordered these acts of violence to further the goals of the organization.

5. In furtherance of their drug trafficking operation, Los Choneros and their confederates relied on "sicarios," or hitmen, as well as corruption and bribe payments, to ensure protection and loyalty to Los Choneros. Los Choneros' "sicarios" comprised a security apparatus built to commit acts of violence in order to protect Los Choneros' operation, its leaders, territory, trafficking routes and money. These "sicarios" regularly used military-grade weapons, like machine guns, AK-47s and grenades, to perpetrate violence, including murder, torture, and kidnapping. To further the goals of the organization, Los Choneros committed violent acts towards law enforcement, Ecuadorian politicians, attorneys and prosecutors and civilians.

6. On September 5, 2025, the United States Secretary of State designated Los Choneros as a Foreign Terrorist Organization ("FTO") under Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA"). The Secretary of State also designated Los Choneros as a Global Terrorist under Executive Order 13224 on September 5, 2025. The Secretary of State has also listed the following aliases for Los Choneros: The Choneros, Aguilas and Fatales.

COUNT ONE
(International Cocaine Distribution Conspiracy)

7. The allegations contained in paragraphs one through six are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth in this paragraph.

8. In or about and between 2016 and November 2026, both dates being approximate and inclusive, within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the United States, the defendant RONALD JAVIER MACÍAS VILLAMAR, together with others, did knowingly and intentionally conspire to distribute a controlled substance, intending, knowing and having reasonable cause to believe that such substance would be unlawfully imported into the United States from a place outside thereof, which offense involved a substance containing cocaine, a Schedule II controlled substance, contrary to Title 21, United States Code, Sections 959(a) and 960(a)(3). The amount of cocaine involved in the conspiracy attributable to the defendant as a result of his own conduct, and the conduct of other conspirators reasonably foreseeable to him, was five kilograms or more of a substance containing cocaine.

(Title 21, United States Code, Sections 963, 959(d) and 960(b)(1)(B)(ii); Title 18, United States Code, Sections 3238 and 3551 et seq.)

COUNT TWO
(International Cocaine Distribution –
Approximately 1,100 Kilograms of Cocaine)

9. The allegations contained in paragraphs one through six are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth in this paragraph.

10. In or about November 2024, within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the United States the defendant RONALD JAVIER MACÍAS VILLAMAR, together with others, did knowingly and intentionally distribute a controlled substance, intending, knowing and having reasonable cause to believe that such substance would be unlawfully imported into the United

States from a place outside thereof, which offense involved five kilograms or more of a substance containing cocaine, a Schedule II controlled substance.

(Title 21, United States Code, Sections 959(a), 959(d), 960(a)(3) and 960(b)(1)(B)(ii); Title 18, United States Code, Sections 3238, 2 and 3551 et seq.)

COUNT THREE
(International Cocaine Distribution – Approximately 1,800 Kilograms of Cocaine)

11. The allegations contained in paragraphs one through six are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth in this paragraph.

12. On or about January 30, 2025, within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the United States the defendant RONALD JAVIER MACÍAS VILLAMAR, together with others, did knowingly and intentionally distribute a controlled substance, intending, knowing and having reasonable cause to believe that such substance would be unlawfully imported into the United States from a place outside thereof, which offense involved five kilograms or more of a substance containing cocaine, a Schedule II controlled substance.

(Title 21, United States Code, Sections 959(a), 959(d), 960(a)(3) and 960(b)(1)(B)(ii); Title 18, United States Code, Sections 3238, 2 and 3551 et seq.)

COUNT FOUR
(Use of Firearms in Furtherance of Drug Trafficking)

13. The allegations contained in paragraphs one through six are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth in this paragraph.

14. In or about and between 2016 and June 2025, both dates being approximate and inclusive, within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the United States, the defendant RONALD JAVIER MACÍAS VILLAMAR, together with others, did knowingly and intentionally use and carry one or more firearms, during and in relation to a drug trafficking

crime, to wit: the crime charged in Count One, and did knowingly and intentionally possess such firearms in furtherance of said drug trafficking crime, one or more of which firearms was brandished and discharged.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 924(c)(1)(A)(i), 924(c)(1)(A)(ii), 924(c)(1)(A)(iii), 2, 3238 and 3551 et seq.)

COUNT FIVE
(Conspiracy to Provide Material Support to a Foreign Terrorist Organization)

15. The allegations contained in paragraphs one through six are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth in this paragraph.

16. On or about and between September 5, 2025 and November 2026, both dates being approximate and inclusive, within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the United States and elsewhere out of the jurisdiction of any particular State or district, the defendant RONALD JAVIER MACÍAS VILLAMAR, together with others, did knowingly and intentionally conspire to provide material support and resources, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2339A(b), including services, personnel including himself and others, and property including currency or monetary instruments, weapons, and explosives, to a foreign terrorist organization, to wit: Los Choneros, which at all relevant times was designated by the Secretary of State as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to Section 219 of the INA, knowing that Los Choneros was a designated foreign terrorist organization and that Los Choneros had engaged in and was engaging in terrorist activity and terrorism, and after the conduct required for this offense occurred, the defendant was brought into and found in the United States.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2339B(a)(1), 3238 and 3551 et seq.)

COUNT SIX

(Providing and Attempting to Provide Material Support to a Foreign Terrorist Organization)

17. The allegations contained in paragraphs one through six are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth in this paragraph.

18. On or about and between September 5, 2025 and November 2026, both dates being approximate and inclusive, within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the United States and elsewhere out of the jurisdiction of any particular State or district, the defendant RONALD JAVIER MACÍAS VILLAMAR, together with others, did knowingly and intentionally provide and attempt to provide material support and resources, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2339A(b), including services, personnel including himself and others, and property including currency or monetary instruments, weapons, and explosives, to a foreign terrorist organization, to wit: Los Choneros, which at all relevant times was designated by the Secretary of State as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to Section 219 of the INA, knowing that Los Choneros was a designated foreign terrorist organization and that Los Choneros had engaged in and was engaging in terrorist activity and terrorism, and after the conduct required for this offense occurred, the defendant was brought into and found in the United States.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2339B(a)(1), 3238, 2 and 3551 et seq.)

CRIMINAL FORFEITURE ALLEGATION
AS TO COUNTS ONE, TWO AND THREE

19. The United States hereby gives notice to the defendant that, upon his conviction of any of the offenses charged in Counts One, Two and Three, the government will seek forfeiture in accordance with Title 21, United States Code, Sections 853(a) and 970, which require any person convicted of such offenses to forfeit: (a) any property constituting, or derived from, any proceeds obtained, directly or indirectly, as the result of such offenses; and (b) any

property used, or intended to be used, in any manner or part, to commit, or to facilitate the commission of, such offenses.

20. If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

(a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;

(b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;

(c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;

(d) has been substantially diminished in value; or

(e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty,

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of the forfeitable property described in this forfeiture allegation.

(Title 21, United States Code, Sections 853(a), 853(p) and 970)

CRIMINAL FORFEITURE ALLEGATION
AS TO COUNT FOUR

21. The United States hereby gives notice to the defendant that, upon his conviction of the offense charged in Count Four, the government will seek forfeiture in accordance with Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(d)(1) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), which require the forfeiture of any firearm or ammunition involved in or used in any knowing violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922 or Section 924.

22. If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

(a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;

(b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;

(c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;

(d) has been substantially diminished in value; or

(e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty,

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of the forfeitable property described in this forfeiture allegation.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(d)(1); Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p); Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c))

CRIMINAL FORFEITURE ALLEGATION
AS TO COUNTS FIVE AND SIX

23. The United States hereby gives notice to the defendant that, upon his conviction of either of the offenses charged in Counts Five and Six, the government will seek forfeiture in accordance with: (a) Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), which require any person convicted of such offenses to forfeit any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to such offenses; and (b) Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(G) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), which require the forfeiture of all assets, foreign or domestic (i) of any individual, entity, or organization engaged in planning or perpetrating any Federal crime of terrorism (as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2332b(g)(5)) against the United States, citizens or residents of the United States, or their property, and all assets, foreign or domestic, affording any person a source of influence over any such entity or organization, (ii) acquired or maintained by any person with the intent and for the purpose of supporting,

planning, conducting, or concealing any Federal crime of terrorism (as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2332b(g)(5)) against the United States, citizens or residents of the United States, or their property, (iii) derived from, involved in, or used or intended to be used to commit any Federal crime of terrorism (as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2332b(g)(5)) against the United States, citizens or residents of the United States, or their property, or (iv) of any individual, entity, or organization engaged in planning or perpetrating any act of international terrorism (as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2331) against any international organization (as defined in Title 22, United States Code, Section 4309(b)) or against any foreign Government.

24. If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

(a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;

(b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;

(c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;

(d) has been substantially diminished in value; or

(e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty,

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of the forfeitable property described in this forfeiture allegation.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981(a)(1)(C) and 981(a)(1)(G); Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p); Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c))

A TRUE BILL

[redacted]

FOREPERSON

By David Pitluck, Assistant U.S. Attorney

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UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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