**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
MIAMI DIVISION**

CASE NO. 1:26cv24000

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, vs. MILAGROS MARILEISIS ACOSTA TORRES, a/k/a Milagros Marile Acosta Torres, a/k/a Milagros M. Acosta Torres, a/k/a Milagros M. Acosta, a/k/a Milagros M. Torres, Defendant.	**COMPLAINT TO REVOKE NATURALIZATION**

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

The United States of America brings this civil action under 8 U.S.C. § 1451(a) against Defendant Milagros Marileisis Acosta Torres, a/k/a Milagros Marile Acosta Torres, a/k/a Milagros M. Acosta Torres, a/k/a Milagros M. Acosta, a/k/a Milagros M. Torres ("Defendant"), to revoke her naturalized U.S. citizenship. This action is based on Defendant's criminal conduct prior to naturalizing, which she failed to disclose in her naturalization application or interview, and for which she was later convicted.

In 2011, Defendant conspired to commit money laundering in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h). Four years later, she applied for naturalization, but she failed to disclose her prior criminal conduct in her application. Consequently, a United States Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") officer approved her application even though she was not eligible. Her prior bad acts came to light in 2020 when she pleaded guilty to – and was ultimately convicted of – her crime. The Court must order her denaturalization because she illegally procured her citizenship (*i.e.*, she was not eligible for naturalization at the time she naturalized), and she procured her citizenship by concealment of a material fact or by willful misrepresentation.

II. PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE

1. This is an action filed under 8 U.S.C. § 1451(a) to revoke and set aside the decision admitting Defendant to U.S. citizenship and to cancel Defendant's Certificate of Naturalization No. [redacted]

2. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1345.

3. Venue is proper in this District under 8 U.S.C. § 1451(a) and 28 U.S.C. § 1391, because Defendant can be found in and resides in this District.

4. Plaintiff is the United States of America, suing on behalf of itself.

5. Defendant is a native of Cuba and obtained her U.S. citizenship through naturalization.

6. Defendant's last known address of residence is in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

III. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

7. The affidavit of [redacted], a Special Agent with Homeland Security Investigations, a component of the United States Department of Homeland Security, showing good cause for this action, as required by 8 U.S.C. § 1451(a), is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

A. Defendant's Money Laundering Scheme & Federal Conviction

8. Defendant and Johander Jorrin Melhen ("Jorrin") were married in 2009.

9. From May 17, 2007, through May 28, 2015, Jorrin was an employee and licensee of Miccosukee Resort & Gaming in Miami-Dade County.

10. Jorrin serviced Electronic Gaming Machines ("EGMs") at the Miccosukee Casino.

11. Beginning in 2011, and continuing through 2015, Jorrin and three other Miccosukee Gaming employees and licensees conspired to commit computer fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1030(a)(4).

12. Jorrin and his co-conspirators caused EGMs at the Miccosukee Casino to generate false and fraudulent credit vouchers, which they then presented to Miccosukee Gaming, in exchange for cash.

13. Through this scheme, Jorrin and his co-conspirators embezzled approximately $5,300,000 from Miccosukee Gaming.

14. The cash that Jorrin and his co-conspirators obtained from the redemption of the credit vouchers represented the proceeds of computer fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1030(a)(4).

15. Beginning as early as January 2011, and continuing through in or around October 2018, Defendant and Jorrin conspired to engage in various financial transactions involving the proceeds of computer fraud for the purpose of concealing and disguising the nature, location, source, ownership, and control of the proceeds, and to avoid transaction reporting requirements imposed by federal and state law.

16. For example, in 2011, Defendant opened checking and savings accounts with JPMorgan Chase Bank, listing herself as the sole signatory.

17. Defendant opened these accounts for the purpose of laundering the cash proceeds of computer fraud that Jorrin brought home from the Miccosukee Casino.

18. From 2011-2014, Defendant deposited at least $39,863 in cash proceeds into one account, and at least $16,830 in cash proceeds into the other account.

19. Defendant received the cash proceeds from Jorrin.

20. Defendant knew the funds involved in these transactions were stolen from Miccosukee Gaming.

21. Defendant deposited the cash proceeds to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, and control of the proceeds.

22. Moreover, Defendant intentionally structured some of her deposits to avoid transaction reporting requirements imposed by federal or state law. In particular, she structured the deposits so they did not exceed $10,000 deposited in the same account, on the same day.

23. Defendant and Jorrin laundered at least $147,970 in proceeds of computer fraud.

24. On July 16, 2019, Defendant was charged by an Indictment with (1) Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h); (2) Money Laundering in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(a)(1)(B)(i) and (ii); (3) Money Laundering in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1957. *See* Indictment, *United States v. Aleu, et al.*, No. 19-cr-20435 (S.D. Fla.), ECF No. 3.

25. A true and accurate copy of the Indictment described in paragraph 24 is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

26. On January 31, 2020, Defendant and her attorney appeared before a judge in the Southern District of Florida and pleaded guilty to the offense of Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h). *See* Change of Plea Minutes, *United States v. Aleu, et al.*, No. 19-cr-20435 (S.D. Fla.), ECF No. 188.

27. A true and accurate copy of the Change of Plea Minutes described in paragraph 26 is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

28. On January 31, 2020, Defendant and her attorney signed a "Stipulated Factual Proffer." *See* Stipulated Factual Proffer, *United States v. Aleu, et al.*, No. 19-cr-20435 (S.D. Fla.), ECF No. 189.

29. A true and accurate copy of the Stipulated Factual Proffer described in paragraph 28 is attached hereto as Exhibit D.

30. The Stipulated Factual Proffer contains Defendant's admission to the facts alleged in the preceding paragraphs 9-23.

31. The facts alleged in the preceding paragraphs 9-23 summarize Defendant's participation in the crime of Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering.

32. Following the entry of her guilty plea, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida convicted Defendant of one count of Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h). *See* Judgment in a Criminal Case, *United States v. Aleu, et al.*, No. 19-cr-20435 (S.D. Fla.), ECF No. 346.

33. A true and accurate copy of the Judgment described in paragraph 32 is attached hereto as Exhibit E.

34. As a result of Defendant's conviction, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida sentenced Defendant to 6 months in prison followed by 36 months of supervised release, ordered her to pay $147,970 in restitution, and ordered her to forfeit her interest in various properties.

B. Defendant's Naturalization Application and Oath Ceremony

35. On August 19, 2015, Defendant applied to naturalize and become a U.S. citizen by filing a Form N-400, Application for Naturalization ("Naturalization Application") with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS"). *See* Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.

36. A true and accurate copy of Defendant's Form N-400, Application for Naturalization is attached hereto as Exhibit F.

37. On her Naturalization Application, which she signed under penalty of perjury, Defendant checked "No" in response to Part 11, Question 22, which asked: "Have you ever committed, assisted in committing, or attempted to commit a crime or offense for which you were not arrested?".

38. Defendant's answer to Part 11, Question 22, was false, because she had engaged in a criminal conspiracy to commit money laundering beginning in 2011, to which she later admitted and for which she was later convicted.

39. On November 3, 2015, a USCIS officer interviewed Defendant regarding her Naturalization Application to determine her eligibility for naturalization.

40. At the beginning of the interview, the officer placed Defendant under oath.

41. During the interview, the officer asked Defendant, consistent with Part 11, Question 22 of Defendant's Naturalization Application, whether she had ever committed, assisted in committing, or attempted to commit a crime or offense for which she was not arrested.

42. Defendant orally and under oath confirmed her written response to Part 11, Question 22 of her Naturalization Application, testifying that she had never committed, assisted in committing, or attempted to commit a crime or offense for which she was not arrested.

43. Defendant's testimony regarding her commission of a crime was false, because she had engaged in a criminal conspiracy to commit money laundering beginning in 2011, to which she later admitted and for which she was later convicted.

44. At the end of the interview, Defendant again signed the Naturalization Application under penalty of perjury and swore that the contents of her application were true and correct.

45. At no point during the naturalization process did Defendant disclose to USCIS that she had engaged in a conspiracy to commit money laundering.

46. Based upon the information Defendant supplied on her Naturalization Application and on the sworn answers she gave during her naturalization interview, USCIS approved the application on November 3, 2015.

47. On November 6, 2015, Defendant took the Oath of Allegiance to become a U.S. citizen. She was issued Certificate of Naturalization No. [redacted] *See* Form N-550, Certificate of Naturalization.

48. A true and accurate copy of Defendant's Certificate of Naturalization is attached as Exhibit G.

IV. GOVERNING LAW

A. <u>Congressionally Imposed Prerequisites to the Acquisition of U.S. Citizenship.</u>

49. No individual has a right to naturalization "unless all statutory requirements are complied with." *United States v. Ginsberg*, 243 U.S. 472, 474-75 (1917). Indeed, the Supreme Court has underscored that "[t]here must be strict compliance with all the congressionally imposed prerequisites to the acquisition of citizenship." *Fedorenko v. United States*, 449 U.S. 490, 506 (1981); *see also id.* (an individual "who seeks political rights as a member of the Nation

can rightfully obtain them only upon the terms and conditions specified by Congress." (quoting *Ginsberg*, 243 U.S. at 474)).

50. Among other requirements, Congress has mandated that an individual may not naturalize unless that person "during all periods referred to in this subsection has been and still is a person of good moral character . . . ." *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1427(a)(3). The required statutory period for good moral character begins five years before the date the applicant files the application for naturalization, and it continues until the applicant takes the oath of allegiance and becomes a U.S. citizen. *Id.*; 8 C.F.R. § 316.10(a).

51. Although Congress has not specifically defined what constitutes good moral character for naturalization purposes, the Immigration and Nationality Act lists certain classes of applicants who cannot be found to have the requisite good moral character. 8 U.S.C. § 1101(f).

52. Congress has explicitly precluded individuals who give false testimony for the purpose of obtaining immigration benefits from being able to establish the good moral character necessary to naturalize. 8 U.S.C. § 1101(f)(6).

53. Further, Congress created a "catch-all" provision, which states, "[t]he fact that any person is not within any of the foregoing classes shall not preclude a finding that for other reasons such person is or was not of good moral character." 8 U.S.C. § 1101(f).

54. Individuals who commit unlawful acts adversely reflecting upon their moral character cannot meet the good moral character requirement, unless they prove that extenuating circumstances existed that would ameliorate or palliate their guilt. *See* 8 C.F.R § 316.10(b)(3)(iii); 8 U.S.C. § 1101(f).

55. Thus, an individual unlawfully procured naturalization if he or she committed unlawful acts during the statutory period, even if he or she was convicted of those crimes after

being granted citizenship. *See United States v. Jean-Baptiste*, 395 F.3d 1190, 1193-94 (11th Cir. 2005), *cert. denied*, 546 U.S. 852 (2005).

B. The Denaturalization Statute

56. Recognizing that there are situations where an individual has naturalized despite failing to comply with all congressionally imposed prerequisites to the acquisition of citizenship or by concealing or misrepresenting facts that are material to the decision on whether to grant his or her naturalization application, Congress enacted 8 U.S.C. § 1451.

57. Under 8 U.S.C. § 1451(a), this Court must revoke an order of naturalization and cancel the individual's Certificate of Naturalization if his or her naturalization was *either*:

i. illegally procured, *or*

ii. procured by concealment of a material fact or by willful misrepresentation.

58. Failure to comply with any of the congressionally imposed prerequisites to the acquisition of citizenship renders the citizenship "illegally procured." *Fedorenko*, 449 U.S. at 506.

59. Naturalization was procured by concealment of a material fact or by willful misrepresentation, where: (1) the naturalized citizen misrepresented or concealed some fact during the naturalization process; (2) the misrepresentation or concealment was willful; (3) the fact was material; and (4) the naturalized citizen procured citizenship as a result of the misrepresentation or concealment. *See Kungys v. United States*, 485 U.S. 759, 767 (1988).

60. Where the government establishes that the defendant's citizenship was procured illegally or by willful misrepresentation or concealment of material facts, "district courts lack

equitable discretion to refrain from entering a judgment of denaturalization." *Fedorenko*, 449 U.S. at 517.

V. CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I
ILLEGAL PROCUREMENT OF NATURALIZATION
LACK OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER
(UNLAWFUL ACTS THAT REFLECT ADVERSELY ON MORAL CHARACTER)

61. The United States re-alleges and incorporates by reference the factual and legal allegations contained in Sections II through IV of this Complaint.

62. To be eligible for naturalization, Defendant was required to establish that she was a person of good moral character from August 19, 2010, five years prior to the date she filed the Naturalization Application, until November 6, 2015, the date she became a U.S. citizen.

63. Defendant could not establish the requisite good moral character for naturalization because she committed unlawful acts during the statutory period that reflected adversely on her moral character, and there were no extenuating circumstances that would lessen her guilt. 8 U.S.C. § 1101(f); 8 C.F.R. § 316.10(b)(3)(iii).

64. Specifically, as set forth above at paragraphs 9 through 23, beginning in 2011, Defendant conspired with Jorrin to launder cash proceeds that Jorrin and his co-conspirators illegally procured through computer fraud. Defendant knew the proceeds involved in these transactions were stolen from Miccosukee Gaming, and she acted to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, and control of the proceeds.

65. On January 31, 2020, Defendant appeared before a judge in the Southern District of Florida and pleaded guilty to the offense of Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h).

66. Defendant committed the crime of Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering within the statutory period.

67. The crime of Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering adversely reflected upon Defendant's moral character.

68. Defendant cannot establish extenuating circumstances with regard to the conduct underlying her guilty plea that would render her conduct less reprehensible than it otherwise would be or that tend to palliate or mitigate her guilt. She therefore cannot avoid the regulatory bar on establishing good moral character found in 8 C.F.R. § 316.10(b)(3)(iii).

69. Defendant's unlawful conduct precluded her under 8 U.S.C. § 1101(f) and 8 C.F.R. § 316.10(b)(3)(iii) from showing that she had the good moral character necessary to become a naturalized U.S. citizen.

70. Because Defendant was not a person of good moral character, she was ineligible for naturalization under 8 U.S.C. § 1427(a)(3).

71. Because Defendant was ineligible to naturalize, she illegally procured her naturalization, and this Court must revoke her citizenship, as provided for by 8 U.S.C. § 1451(a).

COUNT II

ILLEGAL PROCUREMENT OF NATURALIZATION LACK OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER (FALSE TESTIMONY)

72. The United States re-alleges and incorporates by reference the factual and legal allegations contained in Sections II through IV of this Complaint.

73. To be eligible for naturalization, Defendant was required to establish that she was a person of good moral character from August 19, 2010, five years prior to the date she filed the Naturalization Application, until November 6, 2015, the date she became a U.S. citizen.

74. Defendant was statutorily precluded from showing that she was a person of good moral character, because she gave false testimony, orally and under oath, during the statutory period, for the purpose of obtaining an immigration benefit, to wit, naturalization. 8 U.S.C. § 1101(f)(6); 8 C.F.R. § 316.10(b)(2)(vi).

75. During the statutory period, Defendant provided false testimony for the purpose of obtaining an immigration benefit when she swore, orally and under oath, during her November 3, 2015 naturalization interview, that she had never committed, assisted in committing, or attempted to commit a crime or offense for which she was not arrested.

76. Defendant's testimony was knowingly false and for the purpose of obtaining an immigration benefit, namely, naturalization.

77. Because Defendant provided false testimony under oath for the purpose of obtaining her naturalization, she was barred under 8 U.S.C. § 1101(f)(6) from showing that she had the good moral character necessary to become a naturalized U.S. citizen.

78. Because Defendant was not a person of good moral character, she was ineligible for naturalization under 8 U.S.C. § 1427(a)(3).

79. Because she was ineligible to naturalize, Defendant illegally procured her citizenship.

80. Because Defendant illegally procured her citizenship, this Court must revoke her citizenship, as provided for by 8 U.S.C. § 1451(a).

COUNT III

PROCUREMENT OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP BY CONCEALMENT OF A MATERIAL FACT OR WILLFUL MISREPRESENTATION

81. The United States re-alleges and incorporates by reference the factual and legal allegations contained in Sections II through IV of this Complaint.

82. Under 8 U.S.C. § 1451(a), this Court must revoke Defendant's citizenship and cancel her Certificate of Naturalization because she procured her naturalization by concealment of a material fact and by willful misrepresentation.

83. As set forth above, throughout the naturalization process, Defendant willfully misrepresented and concealed her involvement in a criminal conspiracy to launder money, for which she later pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida to one count of Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering.

84. Specifically, Defendant represented on her naturalization application and during her naturalization interview that she had never committed, assisted in committing, or attempted to commit a crime or offense for which she was not arrested, despite knowing that such representation was false and misleading.

85. Defendant knew the representation that she had never committed, assisted in committing, or attempted to commit a crime or offense for which she was not arrested was false because starting in 2011, she had been member of a conspiracy to launder money that was illegally procured through fraud, which she had joined with knowledge of its unlawful purpose, as she later admitted to in her Stipulated Factual Proffer and for which she was later convicted.

86. Defendant's misrepresentations were material to her naturalization because the disclosure of her money laundering scheme would have had a natural tendency to influence USCIS's decision whether to approve Defendant's naturalization application as they related to statutory eligibility criteria for such benefit.

87. Had Defendant disclosed the truth about her criminal conduct, USCIS would have discovered her statutory ineligibility for naturalization and could not have approved her application or administered the oath of allegiance.

88. Defendant thus procured her naturalization by willful misrepresentation and concealment of material facts, and this Court must revoke her citizenship pursuant to the requirements of 8 U.S.C. § 1451(a).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, the United States of America, requests:

1. A declaration that Defendant illegally procured her citizenship;

2. A declaration that Defendant procured her citizenship by concealment and willful misrepresentation of material facts;

3. Judgment revoking and setting aside Defendant's naturalization and canceling Certificate of Naturalization No. [redacted], effective as of the original date of the order and certificate, November 6, 2015;

4. Judgment forever restraining and enjoining Defendant from claiming any rights, privileges, benefits, or advantages related to U.S. citizenship that she obtained as a result of her November 6, 2015 naturalization;

5. Judgment requiring Defendant to surrender and deliver, within ten days of the entry of judgment against her, her Certificate of Naturalization and any copies thereof in her possession – and to make good faith efforts to recover and immediately surrender any copies thereof that she knows are in the possession of others – to the Acting Attorney General or to his representative, including undersigned counsel;

6. Judgment requiring Defendant to surrender and deliver, within ten days of the entry of judgment against her, any other indicia of U.S. citizenship (including, but not limited to, U.S. passports, passport cards, and Enhanced Drivers Licenses, whether valid or expired), and any copies thereof in her possession – and to make good faith efforts to recover and then

surrender any copies thereof that she knows are in the possession of others – to the Acting Attorney General or to his representative, including undersigned counsel; and

7. Judgment granting the United States such other relief as may be lawful and proper in this case.

Dated: June 8, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

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