

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

District of Massachusetts

United States of America )

v. )

PEPE HERD EL a/ka PEPE WAMCHAWI HERD )

Case No. 21-10045-ADB )

Defendant )

ORDER OF DETENTION PENDING TRIAL

Part I - Eligibility for Detention

Upon the

- Motion of the Government attorney pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1), or
- Motion of the Government or Court’s own motion pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2),

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 - Findings of Fact and Law as to Presumptions under § 3142(e)

- A. Rebuttable Presumption Arises Under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)(2)** (*previous violator*): There is a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the community because the following conditions have been met:
  - (1)** the defendant is charged with one of the following crimes described in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1):
    - (a)** a crime of violence, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1591, or an offense listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed; **or**
    - (b)** an offense for which the maximum sentence is life imprisonment or death; **or**
    - (c)** an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 801-904), the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 951-971), or Chapter 705 of Title 46, U.S.C. (46 U.S.C. §§ 70501-70508); **or**
    - (d)** any felony if such person has been convicted of two or more offenses described in subparagraphs (a) through (c) of this paragraph, or two or more State or local offenses that would have been offenses described in subparagraphs (a) through (c) of this paragraph if a circumstance giving rise to Federal jurisdiction had existed, or a combination of such offenses; **or**
    - (e)** any felony that is not otherwise a crime of violence but involves:
      - (i)** a minor victim; **(ii)** the possession of a firearm or destructive device (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921);
      - (iii)** any other dangerous weapon; or **(iv)** a failure to register under 18 U.S.C. § 2250; **and**
  - (2)** the defendant has previously been convicted of a Federal offense that is described in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1), or of a State or local offense that would have been such an offense if a circumstance giving rise to Federal jurisdiction had existed; **and**
  - (3)** the offense described in paragraph (2) above for which the defendant has been convicted was committed while the defendant was on release pending trial for a Federal, State, or local offense; **and**
  - (4)** a period of not more than five years has elapsed since the date of conviction, or the release of the defendant from imprisonment, for the offense described in paragraph (2) above, whichever is later.

- B. Rebuttable Presumption Arises Under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)(3)** (*narcotics, firearm, other offenses*): There is a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of the community because there is probable cause to believe that the defendant committed one or more of the following offenses:
- (1) an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 801-904), the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 951-971), or Chapter 705 of Title 46, U.S.C. (46 U.S.C. §§ 70501-70508);
  - (2) an offense under 18 U.S.C. §§ 924(c), 956(a), or 2332b;
  - (3) an offense listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed;
  - (4) an offense under Chapter 77 of Title 18, U.S.C. (18 U.S.C. §§ 1581-1597) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years or more is prescribed; **or**
  - (5) an offense involving a minor victim under 18 U.S.C. §§ 1201, 1591, 2241, 2242, 2244(a)(1), 2245, 2251, 2251A, 2252(a)(1), 2252(a)(2), 2252(a)(3), 2252A(a)(1), 2252A(a)(2), 2252A(a)(3), 2252A(a)(4), 2260, 2421, 2422, 2423, or 2425.

**C. Conclusions Regarding Applicability of Any Presumption Established Above**

- The defendant has not introduced sufficient evidence to rebut the presumption above, and detention is ordered on that basis. (*Part III need not be completed.*)

**OR**

- The defendant has presented evidence sufficient to rebut the presumption, but after considering the presumption and the other factors discussed below, detention is warranted.

**Part III - Analysis and Statement of the Reasons for Detention**

After considering the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g) and the information 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 any other person and the community.
- 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:

- 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
- Lack of stable employment
- Lack of stable residence
- Lack of financially responsible sureties

- Lack of significant community or family ties to this district
- 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 attempt(s) 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:**

The defendant was originally charged in a criminal complaint with being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition, in violation of 18 U.S.C. sec. 922(g)(1) and was later indicted for two counts of the same charge. The court has appointed counsel for the defendant, with the understanding that he believes strongly that he has the right to represent himself and that this court does not have the authority to entertain the charges against him. The court is in the process of evaluating the defendant's competency to stand trial. Nevertheless, by agreement a detention hearing was held by zoom on June 30, 2021 which was attended by the defendant and court-appointed counsel, along with the government's counsel. After consideration of the evidence presented and the arguments of counsel and the defendant, this court finds that the government has met its burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that no condition or combination of conditions of release will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the community, and by a preponderance of evidence that no condition or combination of conditions of release will reasonably assure the defendant's appearance as required.

The evidence against the defendant is strong. The investigation has revealed that since January 2019 the defendant has made a large number of firearm-related purchases, including several ammunition magazines, a laser sight, and a concealable shoulder holster. He has also bought a substantial amount of equipment to modify firearms and to create his own ammunition, as well as to build explosives. The defendant has purchased hard body armor plates and a concealed vest for wearing at least one of these plates, indicating that he is preparing for an armed confrontation. When he was arrested the defendant was wearing a waist pack that contained a loaded Glock 27 pistol with a mounted laser-sight, and 3 fully loaded magazines with ammunition that had been modified. The defendant was wearing a bullet-proof vest under his clothing and a jacket that read "security." He was carrying a fixed-blade knife in a sheath. A search of his residence pursuant to a search warrant revealed extensive security equipment, chemicals, electronics and mechanical equipment as well as drawings indicating an intention to make explosives, ammunition and gun parts.

In 2003 the defendant fired a gun at a tree near a liquor store. In 2004 he was convicted of carrying a firearm without a license, possessing ammunition without a license and resisting arrest. He was sentenced to 4 years and apparently served 2 years in a house of correction. Thus, the evidence is strong that he committed the crime of being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition.

Given the extensive amount of weaponry, ammunition and explosives found at the defendant's residence and on his person, the risk to the public if he were to be released is quite great, especially given his erratic emotional behavior. Moreover, given the defendant's repeated assertion that he should not be tried by any court, this court does not believe that he is likely to comply with the court's orders. In addition, given the lengthy sentence the defendant faces, the risk that he will flee is also great. This court has considered the fact that the defendant has not engaged in violent behavior for many years but nevertheless finds the risks if released too great.

**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: 07/12/2021

/s/ Judith Gail Dein

United States Magistrate Judge