



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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BRITISH MERCENARY SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR PLOT TO PURCHASE FIGHTER JET TO ASSASSINATE DRUG CARTEL LEADER

MIAMI, FLA.-- Marcos Daniel Jiménez, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida; and Jesus Torres (Miami) and Roberto G. Medina (Puerto Rico), Special Agents in Charge, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), announced today that David Tomkins, was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Adalberto Jordan to serve a term of thirty-three months' imprisonment for conspiring to violate the Arms Export Control Act, in violation of Title 22, United States Code, Section 2778, and Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

Tomkins, a native of England and an admitted mercenary, pleaded guilty on June 29, 2004 to conspiring to export a Dragonfly A37 turbojet light-attack aircraft from the United States in 1991 without first obtaining an export license.

ICE agents arrested Tomkins on August 31, 2003 when he attempted to enter the United States at George Bush International Airport in Houston, Texas, after a nearly 13 year absence from the United States.

In 1991, Tomkins sought to purchase an aircraft that could carry up to eight (8) five-hundred (500) pound bombs to be dropped onto a prison outside Cali, Colombia in order to assassinate Medellin Cartel drug kingpin Pablo Escobar, who was then being held by the Colombian government at the prison, known as "El Catedral."

At the June 29, 2004 hearing before Judge Jordan, Tomkins admitted to participating in the scheme by trying to procure the Dragonfly aircraft in violation of United States law controlling the exportation of munitions. Mr. Jiménez commended the investigative efforts of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Randy Hummel and John Schlesinger.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.