

Tuesday August 25, 2020

[Log In \(/user/login\)](/user/login) | [Register \(/user/register\)](/user/register) | [Subscribe \(/subscription-options\)](/subscription-options) | [Need Help? \(/help\)](/help)**JOC.com**

(/)

Search



# Moving Companies Charged With Fraud

Print (<https://www.joc.com/subscribe-print?width=500&height=500&iframe=true>)

Copyright 2003, Traffic World, Inc.

Federal grand juries in the Southern District of Florida on Tuesday indicted 16 moving companies and 74 people for schemes that lured customers with low estimates and then withheld delivery of goods until customers paid fraudulent, inflated prices.

The indictments charge conspiracy, wire fraud, extortion, mail fraud and making a false bill of lading and some were also charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida Marcos Daniel Jimenez, FBI Special Agent in Charge Hector M. Pesquera, Department of Transportation Special Agent in Charge William P. Tompkins and the DOT Office of the Inspector General announced.

"One of our quintessential freedoms is the freedom to move about the country, to change homes, careers, and, in essence, change our lives. These defendants struck at that freedom and used the victims' own personal property to extort money. Their scheme is now over. These Indictments are a clear statement that we will not allow people to be cheated out of their own belongings by unscrupulous practices," Jimenez said.

"The crimes these defendants are alleged to have committed are despicable. Victims trusted their cherished belongings to these moving companies, only to find their belongings held hostage. Countless memories and heirlooms have been damaged and/or destroyed and can never be replaced. The FBI will not tolerate such criminal acts and will continue to aggressively investigate those moving companies that use dishonorable and unethical business practices," Pesquera said.

Tompkins said "Today's indictments mark the most significant, concentrated attack by law enforcement against alleged corruption in the household goods moving industry." If convicted the defendants face prison terms of five to 20 years on each count. The moving companies face a fine of up to \$500,000 for each count charged in the Indictment.

As part of an FBI investigation called "Operation Stow Biz," undercover agents received a moving company's estimate before household goods were loaded on trucks. The moving company would later fraudulently inflate the price to well over twice the estimate and refuse to deliver until paid. The indictments also identify 82 victims in addition to the undercover agents.

Although the Indictments charge sixteen companies, the individual defendants charged are the listed owners and/or operators of over 40 different moving companies. As of Tuesday, the FBI had arrested 46 defendants, all but six in South Florida. The indicted companies and employees include (many of those listed below used several aliases as well):

Advanced Moving Systems -- Zion Rokah, Tamir Cohen, Odelia Shmuelov, Susanne Schwedhelm, Diana Bar, Choni Aloul, Guy Ashkenazi, Ronen Bar, Eddei Benita, Oshri Cohen, Yehiel Cohen, Mordechay Evgi, Itzhak Luzon, Shlomo Molaim, Eli Peretz, Lior Rafael, Yosef Schwartzman, Eyal Zeira, Yaron Israel and Rafi Rafael.

Majesty Moving & Storage Inc., Apollo Van Lines Inc., America's Best Movers Company, First Class Moving Inc., The Movers Express Inc. and Star Movers Inc. -- Yair Malol, Yosef Zaguri, Jennifer Tafuri Vaknin, Shani Humphreys, Avraham Ohayon, Timna Levy, Shimon Buhdana, Shay Cohen, Nissim Edri, Guy Kalev, Neil Shlomo Liebich, Michel Malka, Sivan Maoz, Rafi Rafael, Hod Shlit, Izezo Uzi Elena, Assaf Khuri and Shabtai Shay Mashiah.

All Points USA Relocation Systems Inc. -- Moshe Bachar, Edmond Ben-Ami, Rafael Assoulin, Sharon Elmakias, Firas Hleihil, Baruch Shalit and Wanderson Da Silva.

Century Express Van Lines -- Boris Gavergun, Jenny Shenaider, Avishag Simon, Atalya Yassori Shimonov, Eliyahu Shimonov, Shai Oren and Gaston Saleme.

Elite Van Lines Moving & Storage Inc. -- Eyal Malul, Mordechay Evgi, Kessey Esteves, Izabella Maria Fonseca, Claudio Descart, Sergio Descart, Golan Eliatim and Yuval Perez.

Express Van Lines -- Niv Borsuk, Meir Perez, Adi Meirovitch, Ilanit Fitoussi and Elizabeth Hartenberger.

Moving Systems Inc., AAA Van Lines Inc., Ameri Van Lines Inc. and Si Trucking Inc. -- Simo Elbaz, Yehiel Toledano, Moran Shepkaru, Hanania Dahan, Moshe Elmakias, Muin Naserat and Ronen Ovadia.

Southeastern Van Lines Inc. -- Anat Ben-Zion, Lior Bar, Walter Keener and Roe Bugatti.

## Log In

E-mail \*

Password \*

[Forgot your password? \(/user/password\)](/user/password)

[↪ Log in](#)

---

## Subscribe

[Subscribe Now \(/user/subscribe\)](/user/subscribe)

## Register

Register with JOC.com and receive 5 free pieces of content for the first thirty days. After thirty days, you will receive 3 pieces of content and after sixty days you will receive 1 piece of content. To receive full access, [Subscribe Today \(/marketingservices/subscription-options\)](/marketingservices/subscription-options). You can also subscribe to our daily newsletter.

[Register \(/user/register\)](/user/register)

---

## More on JOC

---



**Savannah, Virginia ports adjust operations to import uptick**  
[\(/port-news/us-ports/savannah-virginia-ports-adjust-operations-import-uptick\\_20200821.html\)](/port-news/us-ports/savannah-virginia-ports-adjust-operations-import-uptick_20200821.html)

[US Ports \(/port-news/us-ports\)](/port-news/us-ports)