

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA
CEDAR RAPIDS DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
Plaintiff,) Civil No. 15-CV-0134-EJM
)
vs.)
)
THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND SIX)
HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE)
DOLLARS (\$33,621.00) IN UNITED)
STATES CURRENCY, and)
)
TWO HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT)
DOLLARS AND TWENTY CENTS)
(\$248.20) IN UNITED STATES)
CURRENCY (CONVERTED FROM)
LEBANESE CURRENCY),)
)
Defendants.)

FINAL DECREE OF FORFEITURE

This matter comes before the Court on the United States' Motion for a Final Decree of Forfeiture against the defendant property known as Thirty-Three Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-One Dollars (\$33,621.00) in United States currency, and Two Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$248.20) in United States currency.

On November 20, 2015, a Complaint for Forfeiture *in rem* was filed against the defendant property seeking forfeiture of the property pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981(a)(1)(A) and 981(a)(1)(C). (Clerk's DR at 1).

The complaint alleges the defendant property constitutes or is derived from proceeds of a specified unlawful activity traceable to violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(a)(1), 924(n) and 22 U.S.C. § 2778, and/or property involved in a transaction or attempted transaction in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1957. (Clerk's DR at 1).

The United States seeks a final decree of forfeiture against the defendant property known as Thirty-Three Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-One Dollars (\$33,621.00) in United States currency, and Two Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$248.20) in United States currency.

It appearing that process was fully issued in this action and returned according to the law:

That on November 25, 2015, a Notice of Complaint for Forfeiture and a copy of the Complaint for Forfeiture *in rem*, were served on Attorney Alfredo Parrish on behalf of his client Bassem Herz. (Clerk's DR at 14).

That Notice of Publication for this forfeiture action was published for 30 consecutive days beginning on May 28, 2016, and continuing through June 26, 2016, on www.forfeiture.gov, giving notice to any and all unknown potential claimants. (Clerk's DR at 13).

Other than Bassem Herz, who filed and later withdrew his claim in this case, no unknown potential claimants have come forward to file a claim or answer or assert a claim or answer on behalf of the defendant property or otherwise defend this

action after notice was provided pursuant to Rule 5 of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty and Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Claims, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

That on July 27, 2016, Entry of Default was entered against Bassem Herz, the defendant property, and any and all unknown potential claimants. (Clerk's DR at 17 and 18).

That on July 29, 2016, Default Judgment was entered against Bassem Herz, the defendant property, and any and all unknown potential claimants. (Clerk's DR at 20).

NOW, therefore, on motion of the Plaintiff, United States of America, for a Decree of Forfeiture, the Court finds judgment should be entered in favor of the Plaintiff, the United States of America.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the defendant property, Thirty-Three Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-One Dollars (\$33,621.00) in United States currency and Two Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$248.20) in United States currency are hereby forfeited to the United States of America.
2. That any right, title, and interest, held by anyone other than the United States in the defendant property, hereby vests in the United States.

3. That the Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall dispose of the defendant property according to the law, depositing any proceeds into the U.S. Department of Treasury Assets Forfeiture Fund, after the deduction of expenses associated with this action.

DATED this 17th day of August, 2016.



EDWARD J. MCMANUS, JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT