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Indicted Federal Informant Allegedly Strong-Armed Hacker Into Caper That Drew 9-Year Sentence

By Kevin Poulsen

08.12.08

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Four years after pleading guilty to an abortive scheme to steal customer credit card numbers from the Lowe’s hardware chain, hacker Brian Salcedo learned from prison last week that a co-conspirator who pressured him to go through with the hack attack was working for the feds at the time.



Brian Salcedo in an undated mugshot.
Photo: Mecklenburg County Sheriff.

Salcedo, 25, is serving a record-breaking nine-year prison term for a 2003 intrusion into Lowe’s corporate network. Salcedo and another hacker had parked outside a Lowe’s in Southfield, Michigan and tapped into the store’s unsecured WiFi network. Over the course of weeks, they

used their foothold to penetrate Lowe's servers at stores across the country, where they eventually planted software that would sniff and store customer credit card numbers as they flew from cash registers to a processing server in North Carolina.

The hackers' downfall was seemingly straightforward. According to court records, Lowe's detected an intrusion and called in the FBI, who staked out the Southfield store's parking lot and eyeballed Salcedo and his partner working from a Pontiac Grand Prix. Salcedo pleaded guilty without even looking at the thousands of pages of "discovery" in the case — the government's evidence.

But now, revelations in last week's indictment of three Miami men for a WiFi hacking spree have Salcedo replaying in his head a crucial moment in the genesis of his crime — when, a week before he planted the credit card sniffing code, he nearly backed out of the scheme entirely.

Salcedo says he started getting cold feet when he realized that Lowe's network administrators had detected his presence on their network. He wanted to bail. But he had already lined up a buyer for the credit cards — a mysterious figure in the computer underground known as SoupNazi, who wouldn't take no for an answer.

SoupNazi told Salcedo and his partner that it was too late to turn back, says Salcedo. "He insinuated threats against us, and said we had to continue doing what we were doing," Salcedo said in a phone interview from prison Monday.

Last week, federal indictments handed down in Boston unmasked SoupNazi as 27-year-old Albert Gonzalez, who's also known as Cumbajohny and Segvec. Gonzalez is the alleged mastermind of a series of WiFi based intrusions into U.S. retailers, including TJ Maxx, OfficeMax and DSW. Perfecting the attack pioneered by Salcedo, Gonzalez allegedly stole at least 40 million credit and debit card numbers worth millions of dollars on the black market.

Of significance to Salcedo: At the time Gonzalez threatened him, he was also working for the feds. Court records reveal that Gonzalez had been busted in July 2003 — three months before Salcedo's Lowe's hack began. At his arrest, the government admits, Gonzalez became a key informant for the U.S. Secret Service, eventually aiding in the 2004 arrest of 28 fraudsters linked to the credit card fraud supersite Shadowcrew.com.

Now, "I know for a fact that he was an informant during the time that he was dealing with us," says Salcedo.

Another source involved in the Lowe's hack independently confirmed Salcedo's account, and said that SoupNazi cultivated the impression that he was connected to organized crime, and demanded that Salcedo go through with the attack.

It's unlikely that the Secret Service instructed Gonzalez to threaten Salcedo, and the agency may have been unaware that its informant was even dealing with the Lowe's hackers, says Mark Rasch, a former Justice Department cybercrime prosecutor. Rasch notes that it was the FBI, not the Secret Service, that foiled the attack.

But Rasch says the revelations raise enough questions of potential entrapment for Salcedo to attempt a court challenge to his nine-year prison sentence — at the time, the longest sentence for any U.S. hacker, which was [upheld by a federal appeals court](#) in 2006.

"His argument would basically be that ... Gonzalez threatened him as a government agent in order to induce him to plant the sniffer," Rasch says. "He would not have planted the sniffer but for the threat, and his sentence was based on that."

Salcedo's prosecutor did not return a phone call Tuesday.

Gonzalez was arrested in a Miami hotel room last week, in possession of more than \$20,000 in cash and a Glock 27 firearm with ammunition.

Salcedo is serving time at a federal prison camp in McKean, Pennsylvania, where he has a job in the welding shop. He's projected for release in October, 2011.

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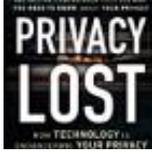
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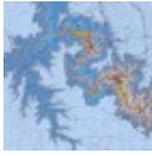
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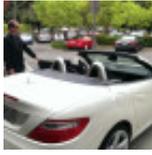
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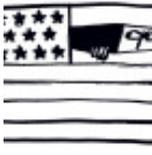
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Kevin Poulsen is the investigations editor at Wired and author of [Kingpin: How One Hacker Took Over the Billion-Dollar Cybercrime Underground](#) (Crown, 2011). His PGP fingerprint is `A4BB A435 2FE1 B4A8 46E1 7AF6 DA4B 5DFA FF09 4870`

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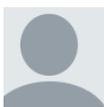


47 comments



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monkeybill · 4 years ago

the thing about the law is how its interpreted by the court, there fore the law is like a liquid its shape depends on what shape the container is just as the way the law is viewed from person to person. a man can be found guilty of a crime today, then a year later a similar case where the dependent is found innocent could have man a case overturned.

^ | ▾ Share ›



MaryAchy · 5 years ago

Hey Maryachy

Ashamed to call yourself "El Mariachi" anymore? Name too associated with being a rat-pig?

You go on about how horrible a person a rat like CJ is when you did the exact same thing. Why don't you print a list here of all the TG member you personally sent to jail to payoff your own crime spree?

Start with Bigbuyer. Or maybe your old savior, the woman you claimed saved your life and bailed you out of jail, Decepgal. Why don't you explain to all the kind folks how you got Diane Dansereau Avery busted and pushed into being a rat herself, running cardercrow/muzzfuzz as a sting operation?

You were the original rat, the first to squeal. Hell, you were a major rat BEFORE you ever got busted in Issaquah, Washington. Here is a copy of that police report, from back in Oct/Nov 2002:

"I then contacted the subject who identified himself as (elmarichis real name). I advised him of his Miranada rights, which he acknowledged with his signiture. He read the waiver portion but refused to sign it. "He stated you don't know whom you have here", and that he wanted to talk

[see more](#)

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Mata_Hari • 5 years ago

As Brians girlfriend and fellow "security tester" I have to say this. 8 years in prison for hacking a network that should have had way stronger security is BULLSHIT. Yeah, he fucked up..but trust me, he blames no one but himself.

Kids do stupid shit...He gets it. FCI ** **** isn't a fucking boys camp. Its prison.

I have to say it's a relief to see the negative comments seem to be coming from people with less than average social skills and most likely clueless. Brian will be out soon and he can work at McDonalds for I care, I am just glad to have him home.

^ | v Share >



SMART_E_P4N7S • 5 years ago

KEYLOGTHIS(CUMBAJOHNNY) FAGGAT TRYED TO STING ME BEFORE. BUT YOU CAN'T BULLSHIT A BULLSHITTER, I COULD SMELL THE SHIT COMING FROM HIS MOUTH SINCE DAY 1. JUST LIKE WHEN RANDOM ACCOUNTS ON SC WERE TAKEN OVER AND USED TO SET OTHER MEMBERS UP. YEA I SAW THE MESSAGES THAT I NEVER SENT COMING FROM MY ACCOUNT. ALL IN ALL, YOU ARE WHAT YOU REAP!

^ | v Share >



blackanddecker • 5 years ago

Note the second last paragraph in the article: "Gonzalez was arrested in a Miami hotel room last week, in possession of more than \$20,000 in cash and a Glock 27 firearm with ammunition."

What does that have to do with anything? Lots of people carry small firearms when they are carrying slightly larger amounts of cash.

^ | v Share >



spiedupon • 5 years ago



I am not predisposed to crime, and the secret police tried very hard many times to force me to commit crimes. They have committed hundreds of crimes in their attempts to discredit me as a political activist and destroy my ability to function, but I am still alive.

I am convinced that most of those "Nigerian" schemes are actually the secret police looking to make a buck.

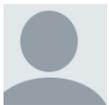
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Aunt Roberta • 5 years ago

How about someone out there offering to give him a job in the computer field upon his release. He only wants the opportunity to do what he loves and knows and to live a happy life. He only needs one person to give him a chance to show he can be a productive member of society as well as a valuable and excellent employee. He was a kid when he made this mistake. He will be 28 when he is released with his whole life ahead of him. Is there anyone who will take a chance on him. I can personally tell you you won't be sorry. He won't let you down. Contact him at FCI McKean, P.O. Box 8000 Bradford PA 16701.

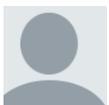
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not bob • 5 years ago

Wow, I didn't read anything in this article that said Salcedo was attempting to claim entrapment. I also didn't read that he was seeking a reduction in his sentence. I'm no law expert, but I would guess any legal proceedings on his behalf would still take him pretty close to his release date. He never denied his committing the crime. He screwed up, he's serving his sentence, just let him be.

^ | v Share ›



Uncle Bob.. • 5 years ago

@Dan

I agree with your post in its entirety. It seems as if the government has stepped so far over the line that nothing else compares to it. And they do so in the name of truth, justice, and the so called American way.

There are many other beneficiaries to the credit card/fraud forums, and those beneficiaries also share alot of blame as well.

If you have noticed since 2002 the rise of online fraud has been magnified, along with the plethora of security companies who have stepped in and started making money from it by selling insurance plans to protect people, which are virtually worthless on the face of it. Law Enforcement has also benefited to a large degree by numerous high profile arrests, larger profiles, and essentially they have gained more money in the budget to fight the problem.

However the larger picture looks different. If it wasn't for such crimes out there, the government wouldn't have the so called bogymen to throw out, where everyone is told to be afraid, be very afraid. Then they start stepping on individuals rights, throwing out all rights, then gaining more

control as they go along to where they control it all. Once that goal is achieved they start moving

[see more](#)

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no one cares el snitcherachi • 5 years ago

This isn't your own personal blog you stupid law enforcement pawn. You yourself caused plenty to get arrested. Seriously stfu and quit wasting bandwidth and comment space.

^ | v Share ›



Uncle Bob.. • 5 years ago

@anti bob

Sadly you are not reading case law.

@shig

Yes you can. Look at the DeLorean case. The coke was GOLD according to the taped meeting. Granted he beat it later, but he beat it based upon not having a predisposition to criminality in his life.

He was after all just a car manufacturer and losing his company, he needed funds to save the company, and the feds provided the crime, the object of the crime, which was the cocaine, and the act itself, which was the government selling it to him.

Sadly the facts in most cases such as these are that the criminal has little money for expensive lawyers to fight government agents and prosecutors. Therefore most criminally entrapped people have options that are limited to public pretender attorneys who claim at the first interview that all federal court is to them is a plea court, not a trial court, since all federal cases have a HIGH degree of pleas and a low degree of cases won based upon fighting it. I think I read once it

[see more](#)

^ | v Share ›



Dan • 5 years ago

I will loose no sleep over Salcedo's problem. The behavior of the FBI and Justice Dept. however is something else entirely. It seems most of the alphabet GOV agencies have committed, in our names, numerous crimes in the last eight years, either denying, justifying or just plain stone walling every time they are caught with their pants down. I am sick to death of their moral indignation and think the whole pack should prosecuted under the RICO act. They make the mafia look teenage street corner punks and have proven themselves to be a threat to democracy and our constitutional way of life. It is time that our civil servants and politicians take their oath of office seriously and stop treating their positions as a personal piggy bank or platform for vengeance, failing that they deserve felony convictions and jail time for violating the public trust they swore to uphold. Is it any wonder that 80% of the public consider politicians with

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abba • 5 years ago

They should double his sentence for being such a dumb fuck.

 |  Share >

Anonymous • 5 years ago

"While some may scream entrapment, you have to recognize that most of us would not follow someone into a crime."

Are you following the car in front of you driving 56 MPH in a 55 MPH zone? We are ALL criminals

 |  Share >

BigFuckinDeal • 5 years ago

This guy is a crook, live with it. If you want to find some injustice, try "gangstalking", it's all the rage.

They say the cops are the instigators, fuck all the instigators, creeps, Nazis.

<http://www.nowpublic.com/world...>

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Betto • 5 years ago

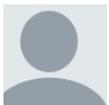
While some may scream entrapment, you have to recognize that most of us would not follow someone into a crime. He broke the law, he stood up and admitted it, his sentence was severe, but he's doing his time. Good for him if he wants to try to use the law in his favor now, that's what were supposed to do. I don't say "poor man" nor do I think him a bastard. He screwed up, fortunatley nobody was hurt and he's paying the price.

 |  Share >

Lenny • 5 years ago

If you pick somebody out of a crowd, and get them to do something illegal than sounds like entrapment. Would he have done it with out this informant?

I just read a story about this guy that called fast food restaurants, and got the managers to perfume strip searches to employees. You may say the manager was wrong for going along with this. But there were 70 times this happened. If the police made the phone calls, how can you justify this as anything but entrapment? By the way the guy on the phone claimed he was the police!

 |  Share >

Y Ddraig • 5 years ago

"Salcedo is serving time at a federal prison camp in McKean, Pennsylvania, where he has a job in the welding shop. He's projected for release in October, 2011."

Let's get the reporting accurate here. THERE IS NO McKEAN Pennsylvania. McKean County yes, but no town of McKean. BTW I'm from McKean County PA.

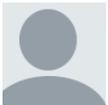
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Wm • 5 years ago

The article does say that the person had already hacked into the Lowes system and didn't want to go on only after he detected that the store had discovered that he was hacking into their system. This was not repentance, but a decision that was a result of possibly being caught. So his judgement is still justified.

^ | v Share ›



TJ • 5 years ago

"it is considered normal and legal to plant seeds of criminal activity in the target"

So once you make a mistake, you can plan on becoming a target for corruption and ambitious DAs?

A guy makes a mistake, realizes he wants to stay clean, and the dealer is funded by the government? with tax dollars?

I hope some people can see where this stuff leads. Once a criminal, always a criminal, because its good for the copsrobbers business. NOT good for the citizenry however.

^ | v Share ›



M y s t e r y • 5 years ago

Welcome EI, odd to see the spineless crawl out from the cracks, still playing the game eh? Thought it had taken your life by now, hell we know it's got your soul.

Can't leave it behind , nice to see something consume you. How's it feel being controlled by something and not having your own free will? knowing you've done nothing of value, only hurt those around you?

Friendship... wait that's right you don't know what trust and friendships about. Your just a self perpetuating virus, letting the disease run your life, while you step back and take no responsibility... just play the dumb host thinking hes smart and ontop of his game when really your just a lowly servant, playing b*tch...

How are those food stamps and welfare? Your really working the system... or should I say all the hardworking people who support the system... and have been paying ridiculous fee's because of scum.... like you.

Lifes punishment can go far beyond death, as you obviously know... every morning you wake up. How's your concious? and that screw up daughter who doesnt want anything to do with you? what about the ex's? lol and family for that matter?

Another scandal, another scam, another kid, another misguided and unfortunate soul falls for your crafty words.

Bite the dust already, your an old timer has been that never was and is exploiting the internet and "open" minds with your self indulging lunacy.

Enjoy the nightmare you call life bud.

Ciao

^ | v Share ›



sigh • 5 years ago

When someone threatens you to commit a criminal act, you go to the police. Unless, of course, you're a criminal.

Then you go through with it, and cry afterwards when you get caught, claim you never read anything, and all the other standard claims employed during appeals.

enjoy your jail time.

^ | v Share ›



Blake7 • 5 years ago

WTG!

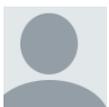
book rights, certified real life hack experience plus welding school. Wow, cry me to my retirement!

Does McKean also teach transmission repair and how good is their library?

A REAL geek would have read all the reports first before giving in, though. (weenie!)

Blake

^ | v Share ›



DaemonBarber • 5 years ago

Seems like entrapment - there's a big difference from accessing an unsecured network and using that access to steal credit cards.

If he was trying to back out before any crime (or at least serious crime) was committed but was threatened into committing the crime by a Federal Informant then it should be considered entrapment. Though if he had backed out before he thought the sys admin was onto him, he might have a better defense (the distinction being not wanting to commit a crime, and not wanting to get caught for committing a crime).

^ | v Share ›



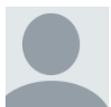
Dan • 5 years ago

More technically legal but profoundly unethical. I would imagine, at the very least that I would...



vow, technically legal but profoundly unethical. I would imagine at the very least that Lowe's will be filing suit against the government for using it in such a manner.

^ | v Share ›



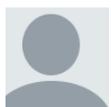
Bob F • 5 years ago

I hope that rat Albert Gonzalez gets shot.

Selling out others to save your own ass is the lowest thing to do and people like that need to be eliminated.

Harsh words? Perhaps. True? I think so.

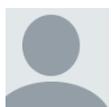
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WTF • 5 years ago

He was screwed when he decided to hack Lowe's. They discovered his attempts without the help of the snitch and called the FBI without the help of the snitch and the FBI was looking for him before he called the snitch. If he gets out early it will only be because of a technicality. He will be walking free but it does not change the fact he was stealing credit card info for the purposes of selling the info to people who would steal money from innocent civilians. Screw him. Let him rot in prison.

^ | v Share ›



Anonymous • 5 years ago

"Salcedo pleaded guilty without even looking at the thousands of pages of "discovery" in the case -- the government's evidence."

Uh, no. That would be his attorney, who after reviewing the discovery, is obligated to go over the evidence with his client. His attorney should have demanded Salcedo go over every sentence in every paragraph in every document. Beyond the feds normal corrupt practices, informants and snitches, some with scripted testimony, are standard procedure. Spend a week perusing <http://www.whosarat.com/> , especially the ones with court docs as part of their profile.

As his appellate opinion points out, Salcedo (his attorney) waived all his rights except in a very narrow context:

"Salcedo's plea agreement contained a waiver of appellate rights that stated in relevant part:

Defendant . . . waives all such rights to contest the conviction and/or sentence except for: (1) claims of ineffective assistance of counsel; (2) prosecutorial misconduct; or (3) the sentence, but only to the extent defendant contests the sentence that one or more findings on [*199] guideline issues were inconsistent [**3] with the explicit stipulations contained in any paragraph in the plea agreement filed herein, or on the basis of an unanticipated issues that arises during the sentencing hearing and which the District Judge finds and certifies to be of such an unusual nature as to require review by the Fourth Circuit of Appeals."

Screwed by the feds and his own attorney. And nine years to think about it.

^ | v Share ›



justacommenter • 5 years ago

Boo fkin hoo.

Salcedo was and remains a thief, as evidenced by the fact that he could have gotten a regular job instead of consorting with people who turn out to be other thieves in cahoots with the feds to save their own skins.

I hope Mr. Salcedo is enjoying his time in prison and that when he gets out, he'll quit trying to blame his life on government conspiracies and get a fkin job doing something productive with his life.

^ | v Share ›



Morris • 5 years ago

A loaded Glock 27, mmh!

^ | v Share ›



Libra • 5 years ago

Technically Bob has a point, since the most recent US Supreme Court ruling on entrapment does indeed revolve around predisposition.

But that's not the law, that's the most recent precedent or two. Previous Supreme rulings have revolved around subjective concerns (the defendant's state of mind) and objective concerns (whether the police actions would have entrapped anyone, or just someone ready and willing to commit the crime).

Some states choose one or the other criterion, and other countries are more conservative or more liberal.

But in the absence of a good legal argument otherwise, Bob's argument will probably win. The prosecution's burden in the US is currently on whether the "the defendant had a predisposition for" committing the crime, and of course whether he did so. That's usually sufficient even if entrapped, threatened, or whatever.

On the other hand (I am a Libra), none of the precedents mentioned in my source mention the officer actually threatening the defendant with organized crime action against him if he doesn't commit the crime. Surely a good lawyer could find a way to show this was substantially different from simple encouragement.

^ | v Share ›



WTF • 5 years ago

There network being unprotected does not give him the right to hack them. If I leave my door unlocked it does not give the thief the right to enter. He would have been caught regardless if the informant had been working for the government or not. The FBI was watching him. I seriously

doubt SoupNazi would have played nice with him even if he had not been playing for both teams.

^ | v Share ›



curious • 5 years ago

regenol, could you please translate the website you referenced?

^ | v Share ›



regenol • 5 years ago

poor man - <http://www.1solist.ro/?p=86>

^ | v Share ›



shig • 5 years ago

that sounds like a load of crap, if you force someone into doing something its entrapment. u cant make someone commit a crime and then prosecute them for something you "asked" them to do. you cant make anyone commit a crime without a predisposition to crime commit a crime, its a complete contradiction in terms. anyone that commits a crime had a predispostion.

you can use as may vague facts as you want uncle bob, ur basic logic is flawed

^ | v Share ›



John Q Public • 5 years ago

All the posts saying he was trapped are missing a key point. HE lined up a buyer and the ONLY reason he got cold feet was because he knew the sys admins had detected him. The key point is that even without the agent he was guilty. If it had not been an agent then all those credit cards would be with another "buyer" right now.

^ | v Share ›



anti bob • 5 years ago

Uncle Bob is an ignorant idiot. Spouting a lot of nonsense that has nothing to do with the law. He must live in la la land.

^ | v Share ›



Uncle Bob.. • 5 years ago

Predisposition to criminal acts is just that, predisposition. It doesn't mean you have to have an actual police record, only that you have been involved in an act prior to the offense. Could be youth acts or acts that show a predisposition towards criminal activity. If he knew other criminals and had been involved in their acts, even stealing candy from a candy store would be an act enough to warrant a predisposition. All the police need to show is a willful disregard for the law, which would show a predisposition towards criminal acts to get the predisposition case won.

As for insecure wireless access points and shooting the sys admins, why do you think this type of arrest activity goes on?

It is job security for those admins who leave everything unprotected to then later claim they did

everything they could to secure the place. They then complain about a break in and arrest the guys who managed to show the weaknesses. Lock them up and throw away their lives and the sys admins who left everything insecure stay in power and keep their jobs.

The sys admins attitude is its better to arrest those who show the weakness than GIVE THEM JOBS replacing those who left you and your information insecure. Those who showed the weakness of the system are then unemployable for the rest of their lives - while the sys admins ~~who screwed you stay employed and living off the fat of the land ready to allow you to be raped~~

see more

^ | v Share ›



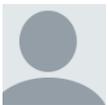
alsdfjasdfj • 5 years ago

* **** *

Oooo a glock firearm with ammunition! String him up!

**** * * *

^ | v Share ›



winterspan • 5 years ago

What I want to know is why the heck all these businesses had unprotected WiFi networks running??? Their IT staff should be shot!

^ | v Share ›



cfl1590 • 5 years ago

Salcedo had no prior technically, as he was covered under the Holmes Youthful Training Act.

^ | v Share ›



Uncle Bob.. • 5 years ago

Look it up. Case law supports it, and this tactic has been used for a very long time against plenty of people. It is LEGAL for the police - their agents and informants to plant to the seeds of a crime in a targets mind as long as he is predisposed to criminality it is OK for them to do it and the entrapment defense will not be allowed or successful.

They can do anything to entice him to commit that crime if he is PREDISPOSED to criminality and it would not be considered entrapment. If the target has never been down that road, it is much harder for the police because entrapment defenses can be used. However if you will look at case law there is plenty of evidence to support what the police can and cannot do in an undercover investigation, and enticing a person, threatening him, beating hell out of him or whatever the case may be is considered OK as long as the target is a criminal and they are investigating him.

Plus, who you going to believe in court? Some starch white fed in a suit or some low life criminal?

Sadly this is just how it is in the USA and now many other countries that the USA is spreading

this technology and wisdom to.

^ | v Share ›



Mogadishu Jones • 5 years ago

Once again the police create a criminal that they can then catch and parade in front of the ignorant masses. Old tricks are the best tricks.

^ | v Share ›



Nephew Bob • 5 years ago

That doesn't seem right to me. You can entrap people if they have a record? If you threaten someone that if they do not commit a crime, you'll hurt them, then you are more than a co-conspirator. If you are more than a co-conspirator, then you do not have the moral high ground to prosecute a case against the suspect.

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Richard • 5 years ago

I have a real problem with the government using rats and then claiming they didn't know what the rat was doing.

My experience is with a drug rat who called my innocent 17 year old son out of the blue, six years after the rat moved away from our town. He wouldn't take "no" for an answer and kept asking my son for names of people who might want to buy drugs. My son finally told him to F-off. Depending on how ruthless the prosecutor is, and the jurisdiction, just giving a name can be a drug conspiracy. I am still considering whether to list the rat on www.whosarat.com so his "friends" in his new town will know he's a rat. My son has asked me not to list the rat because he is sure the rat will be killed by his new "friends". The rat is known to be dealing for himself in his new town as well as being a rat in our town.

RULE: Always assume anyone who urges you to commit a crime is a rat.

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Uncle Bob.. • 5 years ago

It is entrapment only if the guy was not predisposed to criminal activity or had a record for criminal activity. If he did have a record, it is not illegal for the police or their agents or informants to PLANT the seed of criminality in they're targets minds and even induce them to commit a crime. As long as predisposition to criminal activity or being a criminal has taken place in the target, then it is considered normal and legal to plant seeds of criminal activity in the target and threaten or even coerce criminal activity in the target.

If he had no priors, and no predisposition to crime, then it would be considered entrapment if he could prove the threats or even coercion to commit an act which he would otherwise not have committed had he not been involved with an agent for the police, informant or police officer or federal official.

This was one of the problems on Shadowcrew, in that people could have said they were there because of the cool sounding name or the cool people as it was not considered to be illegal to

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because of the poor sounding name of the poor people, as it was not considered to be illegal to be a part of Shadowcrew or involved in posting or commiserating with people on it. However once Shadowcrew was removed, the feds got involved in another site which gave no one the illusion or a case for entrapment - and that site was The International Association For The Advancement of Criminal Activity or IAACA.

[see more](#)

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Benjamin Wright • 5 years ago

Careful reading of the indictments show that the media, card issuers and Federal Trade Commission over-reacted to the TJX incident. TJX was not as bad as we were led to believe. -- Ben <http://legal-beagle.typepad.co...>

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