

01BZZBICP-NK

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

4 v.

23 Cr. 91 (PKC)

5 TREVOR THOMAS BICKFORD,

6 Defendant.

Plea

7
8 New York, N.Y.
9 January 11, 2024
12:00 p.m.

10 Before:

11 HON. P. KEVIN CASTEL,

12 District Judge

13 APPEARANCES

14 DAMIAN WILLIAMS

15 United States Attorney for the
16 Southern District of New York

17 BY: SARAH L. KUSHNER

KAYLAN E. LASKY

18 MATTHEW J.C. HELLMAN

Assistant United States Attorney

19 FEDERAL DEFENDERS OF NEW YORK INC.

Attorneys for Defendant

20 BY: MARISA K. CABRERA

JENNIFER BROWN

21 ALSO PRESENT: FBI Special Agent Jack Amaro

O1BZZBICP-NK

1 (Case called)

2 MS. KUSHNER: Good afternoon, your Honor.

3 Sarah Kushner, Kaylan Lasky, and Matthew Hellman, for
4 the government, and also at counsel table is FBI Special Agent
5 Jack Amaro.

6 THE COURT: Good afternoon to you all.

7 And for the defendant?

8 MS. CABRERA: Good afternoon, your Honor.

9 Marisa Cabrera and Jennifer Brown of Federal Defenders
10 on behalf of Mr. Trevor Bickford.

11 And I'd also like to note in the audience we have
12 Mr. Bickford's mother, stepfather, as well as his two aunts.

13 THE COURT: All right. And also appearing, Ms. Brown,
14 yes. Okay.

15 Good afternoon to both of you.

16 Now, Mr. Hellman, I'm going to ask you to move your
17 seat, if you don't mind, that way, yes, just so I can see
18 Mr. Bickford. I'd appreciate that.

19 Sorry, Ms. Brown.

20 MS. BROWN: I see you.

21 THE COURT: Mr. Bickford, I've been advised that you
22 wish to enter a plea of the guilty to certain counts of the
23 indictment.

24 Is that correct, sir?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

01BZZBICP-NK

1 THE COURT: Before I can accept a guilty plea from
2 you, I must be satisfied that you understand the rights you
3 would have if this case proceeded to trial, and the rights
4 you're giving up by pleading guilty.

5 Also, I must be satisfied that you understand the
6 consequences of pleading guilty and there's a factual basis for
7 your plea of guilty.

8 So in a moment I'm going to have you placed under
9 oath. I'm going to ask you certain questions and inform of you
10 of certain rights. If I ask you something or I tell you
11 something and you don't quite understand, please let me know
12 and I'll put it into different words.

13 Do you understand all of that?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor. I understand.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Please stand and the clerk will
16 administer the oath.

17 (Defendant sworn)

18 THE COURT: Mr. Bickford, you're now under oath, and
19 your answers to my questions are subject to the penalties of
20 perjury or of making a false statement.

21 Do you understand that?

22 THE DEFENDANT: I understand.

23 THE COURT: And that's true for anything you say
24 today.

25 Do you understand that?

01BZZBICP-NK

1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: All right. How old are you?

3 THE DEFENDANT: I'm 20 years old.

4 THE COURT: How far did you go in school?

5 THE DEFENDANT: I dropped out of my senior year.

6 THE COURT: Senior year of what?

7 THE DEFENDANT: High school.

8 THE COURT: Of high school? All right.

9 And are you now or have you recently been under the
10 care of a medical doctor?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: For what condition?

13 THE DEFENDANT: May I consult my lawyers, your Honor?

14 THE COURT: I'm sorry.

15 THE DEFENDANT: May I consult, your Honor, with --

16 THE COURT: Yes. Sure.

17 (Defendant conferring with counsel)

18 THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor, I'm unsure of the
19 diagnosis, but I know it's for psychiatric treatment.

20 THE COURT: All right. You have not been given a
21 diagnosis, is that what your testimony is?

22 THE DEFENDANT: I'm unsure of the diagnosis, your
23 Honor.

24 THE COURT: Has anyone told you what the diagnosis is?

25 THE DEFENDANT: May I consult?

01BZZBICP-NK

1 THE COURT: Yes.

2 (Defendant conferring with counsel)

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor. I've been diagnosed
4 with schizo-affective disorder.

5 THE COURT: All right. And are you prescribed any
6 medication for that disorder?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: And what medications have you been
9 prescribed?

10 THE DEFENDANT: I've been prescribed lithium,
11 risperidone, and Lexapro.

12 THE COURT: And do you take them on a regular basis?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: And when was the last time you took any of
15 these medications?

16 THE DEFENDANT: It was this morning, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: And how does that affect the clarity of
18 your thinking?

19 THE DEFENDANT: It does not, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Well, is your mind clear now?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Do you understand what's happening?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

24 THE COURT: All right. And question, Ms. Cabrera, any
25 doubts as to the defendant's competence to proceed?

01BZZBICP-NK

1 MS. CABRERA: No, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Ms. Brown, as any doubts as to the
3 defendant's competence to proceed?

4 MS. BROWN: Not at all.

5 THE COURT: Same question for the government.

6 MS. KUSHNER: No, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: All right. Based upon Mr. Bickford's
8 responses to my questions and my observations of his demeanor,
9 I find that he is fully competent to enter an informed plea in
10 this case.

11 Mr. Bickford, have you discussed the indictment and
12 the evidence underlying the indictment which contains the
13 charges with your lawyers, Ms. Cabrera and Ms. Brown?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Have you had enough time to consider all
16 of your options in this case?

17 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Are you satisfied with your lawyers'
19 representation of you?

20 THE DEFENDANT: I'm satisfied, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: I'm now going to explain to you the rights
22 that you would have if this case proceeded to trial, and these
23 are the rights that you are giving up by entering a plea of
24 guilty:

25 Under the Constitution and laws of the United States,

01BZZBICP-NK

1 you are entitled to a speedy and public trial before an
2 impartial jury on the charges contained in the indictment. At
3 such a trial, you would not have to prove you were innocent.
4 The government would be required to prove each element of each
5 crime by proof beyond a reasonable doubt. Before you could be
6 found guilty, a jury of twelve people would have to agree
7 unanimously that you are guilty.

8 Do you understand that?

9 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: All right. And at such a trial, you would
11 be entitled to be represented by a lawyer, and if you could not
12 afford a lawyer, one would be provided at public expense.

13 Do you understand that?

14 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: If there were a trial, the witnesses for
16 the government would have to come to court to testify. You
17 would be able to see and hear them. Your lawyer could question
18 them through cross-examination. Your lawyer could object to
19 evidence offered by the government. Your lawyer could present
20 evidence and could ask the Court to compel witnesses to appear
21 at trial on your behalf.

22 Do you understand all of that?

23 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

24 THE COURT: If there were a trial, you would have the
25 right to testify, if you chose to do so. You could come up

01BZZBICP-NK

1 here and take the witness stand.

2 Also, you would have the right not to testify and no
3 one would be permitted to draw any inference or suggestion of
4 guilt from the fact that you decided not to testify.

5 Do you understand that?

6 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: If there were a trial and the jury found
8 you guilty, you would have the right to appeal that finding.

9 Do you understand that?

10 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Now, those are the rights that you would
12 have if you proceed to trial.

13 If you plead guilty and I accept the guilty plea,
14 there will be no trial. You will proceed to the sentencing
15 phase in which the Court will determine the punishment to be
16 imposed upon you. Of course, throughout every critical stage
17 of the proceeding, including sentencing, you will be entitled
18 to be represented by counsel and counsel at public expense, if
19 need be.

20 Do you understand all of that?

21 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Even now, you can change your mind,
23 instead of pleading guilty you can persist in your original
24 plea of not guilty and proceed to trial.

25 Do you wish to plead not guilty and proceed to trial?

01BZZBICP-NK

1 THE DEFENDANT: I wish to plead not guilty, your
2 Honor.

3 THE COURT: All right.

4 THE DEFENDANT: May I consult my lawyers?

5 THE COURT: Yes.

6 (Defendant conferring with counsel)

7 THE DEFENDANT: I'm sorry, your Honor. I mean to
8 plead guilty here and not proceed to trial.

9 THE COURT: So you understand you don't have to plead
10 guilty, you may plead not guilty and go to trial.

11 Do you understand that?

12 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: What do you want to do?

14 THE DEFENDANT: I would like to plead guilty, your
15 Honor.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

17 Now, Counts Two through Four of the indictment, each
18 of these counts charge you with attempted murder of officers
19 and employees of the U.S. government and persons assisting
20 them.

21 Do you understand that?

22 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Counts Two though Four each carry a
24 maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years, a maximum term of
25 supervised release of life, a maximum fine of the greatest of

O1BZZBICP-NK

1 \$250,000 or twice the gross pecuniary or monetary gain derived
2 from the offense or twice the gross pecuniary loss to persons
3 other than yourself resulting from the offense, plus a \$100
4 mandatory special assessment.

5 Do you understand that all of that?

6 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Counts Five through Seven each charge you
8 with assault of officers and employees of the U.S. government
9 and persons assisting them. Count Five through Seven each
10 carry a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years, a maximum
11 term of supervised release of three years, a maximum fine of
12 the greatest of \$250,000 or twice the gross pecuniary gain
13 derived from the offense or twice the gross pecuniary loss to
14 persons other than yourself resulting from the offense and a
15 \$100 mandatory special assessment.

16 Do you understand that?

17 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: The total maximum term of imprisonment on
19 Counts Two through Seven is 120 years.

20 Do you understand that?

21 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Do you understand that in addition to the
23 foregoing, you would be required to make restitution in an
24 amount ordered by the Court to any person I find was injured by
25 reason of your conduct.

01BZZBICP-NK

1 Do you understand that?

2 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: And, Ms. Cabrera, is your client prepared
4 to admit the forfeiture allegations in Paragraphs Eight and
5 Nine of the indictment today?

6 MS. CABRERA: Yes, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: With regard to supervised release, there
8 are terms and conditions attached to supervised release, and if
9 you do not live up to those terms and conditions, you can be
10 returned to prison for a substantial prison sentence.

11 Do you understand that?

12 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Are you a U.S. citizen?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Among the consequences of pleading guilty
16 are that you give up valuable civil rights such as the right to
17 vote, to sit on a jury, to hold public office, possess a
18 firearm, to possess other licenses, and to receive certain
19 government benefits.

20 Do you understand all of that?

21 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Are you serving any other sentence imposed
23 by any other Court or being prosecuted by any other Court for
24 any other crime?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

O1BZZBICP-NK

1 THE COURT: Please tell me about that.

2 THE DEFENDANT: I'm being served by the state, New
3 York State.

4 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Cabrera, do you want to
5 expound on that, please?

6 MS. CABRERA: Sure, your Honor. There's a current
7 case for the same underlying conduct for the federal matter
8 that is still open in New York County.

9 THE COURT: All right. The important thing for you to
10 understand, Mr. Bickford, is that the sentence I impose on you
11 has nothing to do with any sentence you may receive with regard
12 to the state case. I do not control the state case. I do not
13 take the state case into account in imposing my punishment.
14 And the state is free to do as it chooses after hearing, I
15 assume, arguments of the attorneys who are representing you in
16 the state case.

17 Do you understand that?

18 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Have you discussed that with your lawyers?

20 THE DEFENDANT: I have, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Okay. In sentencing you, I will receive a
22 presentence report that contains background information and a
23 recommended sentence under the sentencing guidelines. After
24 hearing from your lawyers and from the government, I will make
25 my own determination of the correct guideline range that

01BZZBICP-NK

1 applies in your case. Even after determining the correct
2 guideline range, I need not follow it and can sentence you all
3 the way up to the statutory maximum. The guidelines are
4 advisory and they are one of the factors that the Court takes
5 account of in passing sentence.

6 Do you understand that?

7 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: You will only be permitted to successfully
9 appeal a sentence on the grounds that it is unreasonable or
10 contrary to law.

11 Do you understand that?

12 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Am I correct that there is no plea
14 agreement of any kind between you and the government? Is that
15 correct?

16 THE DEFENDANT: That's correct, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Ms. Cabrera, can you confirm that?

18 MS. CABRERA: Yes, that's correct.

19 THE COURT: And can the government confirm that?

20 MS. KUSHNER: Yes. That's correct.

21 THE COURT: All right. Now, I have been told that
22 your lawyers have been provided with a letter dated
23 November 30, 2023, on the letterhead of the Department of
24 Justice which is four pages in length and it sets forth the
25 government's view today, or at least as of November 30th, on

01BZZBICP-NK

1 any possible punishment to be imposed on you including the
2 government's view of the guideline calculation.

3 And the question No. 1, have you received that letter?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Have you reviewed it with your attorneys?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Do you understand that letter?

8 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Do you understand that the government has
10 taken the position that ordinarily the guideline range in this
11 case would be life imprisonment, but because the maximum
12 sentence for Count Two through Seven is 120 years'
13 imprisonment, the government is of the view that the guidelines
14 range is 120 years' imprisonment and a fine in the range of
15 50,000 to 500,000.

16 Now, as I told you before, the guidelines are
17 calculated ultimately by the Court. I determine the correct
18 guideline range. And I am not permitted by law to sentence you
19 above the 120 years, but I can sentence you all the way up to
20 the 120 years, even though the guidelines are advisory. I
21 don't know whether the government is correct in its view on the
22 guidelines or they're not correct. Today is not the day for
23 that. It is the day for the government to state what its
24 position is.

25 I'll just ask the government if they can confirm that,

O1BZZBICP-NK

1 as of today, they stand by the statements in the November 30,
2 2023 letter.

3 MS. KUSHNER: Yes, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Do you understand that all of that?

5 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Has anyone threatened or forced you in any
7 way to plead guilty?

8 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Has anyone given you anything of value in
10 order to induce you to plead guilty?

11 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: I want you to know that any prediction,
13 calculation, or estimate that anyone has made to you, including
14 your own lawyers, is not binding on the Court, not binding on
15 me, and if it turns out to be wrong, you will not be permitted
16 to withdraw your guilty plea.

17 Do you understand that?

18 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Let me call on the government to lay out
20 the elements of the crimes charged and what, in summary, the
21 government's evidence would be if this case proceeded to trial.

22 Let me say, Mr. Bickford, the reason I'm doing this is
23 when they lay out the elements, this is what the government
24 would have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt if the case
25 proceeded to trial. So this is really for your benefit, so you

01BZZBICP-NK

1 hear it from the government.

2 Go ahead.

3 MS. KUSHNER: Thank you, your Honor.

4 Your Honor, if the government proceeded to trial, it
5 would have to prove the defendant guilty on Counts Two, Three,
6 and Four of the indictment beyond a reasonable doubt, based on
7 the following elements:

8 First, the defendant had the intent to commit murder
9 as defined in Title 18, United States Code Section 1111.

10 Second, the victim or the victims here were U.S.
11 officers or employees while such officers or employees were
12 engaged in the performance of their official duties or on
13 account of the performance of such duties or any person
14 assisting such an officer or employee in the performance of
15 such duties or on account of that assistance.

16 And, third, the defendant engaged in conduct that
17 constituted a substantial step towards the commission of the
18 crime.

19 With respect to Counts Five, Six, and Seven of the
20 indictment, the government would be required to prove the
21 following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

22 First, the defendant forcibly assaulted, resisted,
23 opposed, impeded, intimidated, or interfered with any person
24 designated under Title 18, United States Code Section 1114
25 while that person was engaged in or on account of the

01BZZBICP-NK

1 performance of official duties.

2 Second, the assault was voluntary and intentional.

3 And, third, the defendant used a dangerous weapon or a
4 deadly weapon or inflicted bodily injury.

5 And, of course, in addition to those elements, the
6 government would have to prove by a preponderance of the
7 evidence that venue was proper here in the Southern District of
8 New York.

9 With respect to the government's evidence, if it
10 proceeded to trial, the evidence would include physical
11 evidence including, for example, the machete that the defendant
12 used to attack three NYPD Officers on New Year's Eve. It would
13 include a journal that was recovered at the scene of the crime
14 that included the defendant's essentially last will and
15 testament. It would include body-worn camera footage of the
16 defendant attacking the officers near Times Square with the
17 machete and then being neutralized. It would include witness
18 testimony including civilians who witnessed the defendant
19 attack the officers. It would include testimony from the
20 officer victims themselves as to what happened to them that
21 night as well as the injuries that each of them suffered. It
22 would include law enforcement witness testimony about the
23 nature of the FBI and NYPD's joint operation on New Year's Eve,
24 which I can explain in more detail if the Court would like. It
25 would also include the defendant's own post-arrest *Mirandized*

01BZZBICP-NK

1 statements, including, for example, that he was considering
2 waging jihad abroad, but ultimately decided not to travel
3 overseas to wage jihad and instead to commit jihad here in New
4 York City; that on the night of December 31, 2022, prior to the
5 attack, the defendant walked around Times Square, "trying to
6 figure out the right time to kill;" that the defendant started
7 reciting verses from the Koran to hype himself up shortly
8 before the attack; and that after attacking the first officer,
9 the defendant charged another officer and tried to forcibly
10 remove the officer's firearm in order to continue his attack.

11 The defendant also made statements that he attacked
12 the New York -- the NYPD officers because they were men in
13 uniform who had weapons, that all men of military age were his
14 targets, that no one can work for the U.S. government and be a
15 true Muslim because the U.S. government supports Israel, and
16 that he wanted to kill as many these military-age targets as he
17 could.

18 The defendant stated that he intended to die in the
19 attack and that he believed the attack was unsuccessful because
20 he unfortunately did not kill the officers and also died
21 himself to achieve martyrdom.

22 And, finally, the government's evidence would include
23 electronic evidence including evidence of text messages from
24 the defendant's phone between him and his brother, a U.S.
25 soldier, discussing the defendant's desire to travel abroad and

01BZZBICP-NK

1 criticizing the brother for joining ranks of the enemy. It
2 would also include electronic evidence from the defendant's
3 phone that in the week leading up to the attack the defendant
4 downloaded and used an encrypted application in order to
5 conduct searches such as, how does Al-Qaeda recruit and
6 searching where Al-Qaeda has the most presence as well as
7 specific research about the New Year's Eve 2022-2023 event in
8 New York City, reflecting his intention to commit the attack
9 that ultimately happened on that New Year's Eve night.
10 Finally, the defendant also conducted research further
11 indicating his intent to achieve martyrdom, including searches
12 about what the prophet Muhammad did before battles and how much
13 does a Muslim funeral cost.

14 That, in essence, would constitute the government's
15 evidence, and show that on New Year's Eve the defendant
16 traveled to Times Square with the purpose of killing
17 military-age U.S. government men, and, in fact, began to carry
18 out that mission by attacking and seriously injuring three NYPD
19 officers who were part of the special federal-state operation
20 assigned that night to protect the city during the Times Square
21 event.

22 THE COURT: Thank you.

23 Mr. Bickford, please tell me in your own words what
24 you did that leads you to believe that you are guilty of
25 Counts Two, Three, Four, Five, Six, and Seven of the

01BZZBICP-NK

1 indictment.

2 THE DEFENDANT: On December 31, 2022, I attempted to
3 kill three uniformed NYPD Officers in an attack with a knife
4 while they were working in Manhattan.

5 I know what I did was wrong and I'm sorry.

6 THE COURT: Did you know the police officers were
7 working at the time you attacked them?

8 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Does defense counsel have a basis to
10 challenge the allegations in Counts Two, Three, and Four that
11 the officers covered by those counts were engaged in and on
12 account of the performance of official duties and a person
13 assisting such officer and employee in the performance of such
14 duties and on account of that assistance?

15 MS. CABRERA: No. The defense does not have a basis
16 to challenge that.

17 THE COURT: And with regard to Counts Five, Six, and
18 Seven, the same question: Any basis to challenge that the
19 officers were engaged in or on account of the performance of
20 official duties, specifically an officer or an employee of the
21 United States, while such officer and employee was engaged in
22 and on account of the performance of his official duties, and a
23 person assisting such officer and employee in the performance
24 of such duties and on account of that assistance and in the
25 commission of said offense?

01BZZBICP-NK

1 MS. CABRERA: No, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Does the defense have any basis to
3 challenge the allegation that what Mr. Bickford referred to as
4 a knife was a deadly or dangerous weapon including a weapon
5 intended to cause death or danger?

6 MS. CABRERA: No, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: And where did this take place, the attack,
8 Mr. Bickford?

9 THE DEFENDANT: In Manhattan, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Does the government agree that there's a
11 sufficient factual predicate for a plea of guilty to Counts Two
12 through Seven?

13 MS. KUSHNER: Yes, your Honor. And the government
14 would just like to note that the defendant did not need to know
15 that the officer-victims were persons assisting U.S. government
16 officers or employees at the time of the attack. That's not an
17 element that the government would be required to prove.

18 Of course, as I previously laid out, the defendant's
19 post-arrest statements leave no doubt that the defendant
20 specifically targeted the officer-victims here because they
21 were military-aged men in uniform.

22 Second, I would just like to note that in reviewing
23 the evidence that the victims here were, in fact, persons
24 assisting U.S. government employees and officers at the time
25 the defendant attacked them. These were not officers assigned

01BZZBICP-NK

1 to or conducting their regular NYPD duties. In fact, they're
2 not even assigned to Manhattan but they were specifically
3 assigned to the joint federal-state operation that both the
4 NYPD and FBI employ specifically for New York City's Annual New
5 Year's Eve Celebration, and these three officers were part
6 of -- they were assigned to 52nd Street and Eighth Avenue,
7 which was one of the main designated checkpoints allowing
8 civilians to come into Times Square, and they were part of the
9 designated area that night of FBI and NYPD personnel who were
10 deployed to that area for the specific purposes of working
11 jointly together to ensure the safety of the event.

12 Finally, I just would like to note that there could be
13 no question that the foot-long machete-type knife that the
14 defendant used in his attack would, of course, constitute a
15 deadly or dangerous weapon, and in addition that the defendant
16 did, in fact, inflict serious bodily injury or bodily injury,
17 rather, on the victim-officers.

18 THE COURT: Thank you.

19 Ms. Cabrera, I may not have fully articulated my
20 question correctly with regard to Counts Two and Four. So let
21 me ask it again of you: Is there any basis to challenge that
22 each of the three officers who were of the subjects of
23 Counts Two, Three, and Four were an officer, an employee of the
24 United States while such officer or employee was engaged in and
25 on account of the performance of his official duties, any

01BZZBICP-NK

1 person assisting such officer and employee in the performance
2 of such duties, and on account of that assistance?

3 MS. CABRERA: No, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Thank you.

5 Does defense counsel agree that there is a sufficient
6 factual basis for a plea of guilty to Counts Two through Seven?

7 MS. CABRERA: Yes.

8 THE COURT: Are you aware of any valid defense that
9 would likely prevail at trial or any reason why your client
10 should not be permitted to plead guilty?

11 MS. CABRERA: No, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Same question, Ms. Brown.

13 MS. BROWN: No, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Mr. Bickford, do you have any questions
15 for me?

16 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: With regard to Count Two, how do you
18 plead, guilty or not guilty?

19 THE DEFENDANT: Guilty, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Count Three, guilty or not guilty?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Guilty, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Count Four, guilty or not guilty?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Guilty, your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Count Five, guilty or not guilty?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Guilty, your Honor.

01BZZBICP-NK

1 THE COURT: Count Six, guilty or not guilty?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Guilty, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Count Seven, guilty or not guilty?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Guilty, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Do you admit or deny the forfeiture
6 allegations in Paragraphs Eight and Nine?

7 THE DEFENDANT: I admit, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Based upon your responses to my questions
9 and my observations of your demeanor, I find that you know your
10 rights, you know the consequences of pleading guilty, and
11 there's a factual basis for your plea of guilty. Your plea of
12 guilty to Counts Two through Seven and your admission to the
13 forfeiture allegations are accepted.

14 I will order a presentence investigation and report
15 and direct that no interview of you take place unless your
16 lawyer is present. It's important that you be truthful,
17 candid, and honest with the people who prepare the report, tell
18 them the good things and the not so good things because the
19 report will be important in my decision on sentencing. Before
20 the day of sentencing, you will have the opportunity to review
21 that report. If there are any mistakes in it, point them out
22 to your lawyers so that they can point them out to me.

23 Sentencing in this case is set for April 11, 2024 at
24 11 a.m.

25 And the defendant is remanded until then.

01BZZBICP-NK

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Anything further from the government?

MS. KUSHNER: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: From the defendant?

MS. CABRERA: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you all very much.

We are adjourned.

And the trial date is vacated, of course.

Thank you.

oOo