



Friday 11 April 2014

## **Second Operation Zygos campaign - hunting criminals believed to be hiding in Cyprus**

A hunt for some of the UK's most-wanted fugitives believed to be hiding in Cyprus has begun today, led by the UK crime-fighting charity Crimestoppers and the National Crime Agency (NCA).

The second Operation Zygos campaign features six brand new appeals for fugitives, and the five remaining suspected criminals from the first campaign in 2012. All are thought to be evading justice in what is one of the most popular countries for British ex-pats.

Rape, heroin trafficking and the setup of fraudulent travel agencies defrauding an estimated 20,000 people, by luring customers attracted by cut-price holidays, are some of the crimes the featured individuals are wanted for by UK law enforcement agencies.

Other alleged crimes include a horse racing betting scam and various types of advanced fee fraud connected to the breeding of racehorses.

Since the original Operation Zygos appeal, four of the nine featured individuals have been arrested, the first within just 48 hours of the campaign when a man wanted for sexual offences against a child was located. Among those caught were Wayne Smith and Julie Skelding who were wanted for causing death by dangerous driving and perverting the course of justice.

This campaign highlights the continuing work between Crimestoppers, the NCA and the Cypriot Police Authorities (CYPOL). Crimestoppers and the NCA also work closely with the British High Commission in Nicosia as well as British and Cypriot law enforcement agencies.

**Lord Ashcroft, KCMG PC, Founder and Chair of Crimestoppers, said:**

“Following the last Operation Zygos appeal in Cyprus in 2012, a third of the featured suspects were arrested in just three weeks following the launch. The results speak for themselves; these outcomes reiterate the effectiveness of the Crimestoppers model in the UK and overseas in locating criminals attempting to evade justice.

“Operation Zygos aims to ensure members of the public in Cyprus are alert to the possible presence on the island of the eleven wanted individuals. Information given anonymously to Crimestoppers can help lead to their location and arrest which we are confident will come to pass following this appeal.”

**Steve Bennett, the NCA’s Head of European Operations, said:** “This campaign builds on the NCA’s close relationship with Crimestoppers and the Cypriot authorities, working together to combat criminal threats to the public.

“Fugitives don’t just give up their criminal behaviour, they typically remain part of the criminal world, creating harm and causing damage, sometimes to the new communities they live in. We are determined to ensure life on the run is intolerable for them and that they are brought back to face justice.

“The most important thing is the power of this campaign to harness the eyes and ears of the public, both in Cyprus and the UK. If you have information on the whereabouts of our targets, no matter how small or trivial it seems, call Crimestoppers anonymously and let us know.”

For those people calling from Cyprus there is a dedicated Cypriot number 8000 55 11 which will be answered in the UK by Crimestoppers’ call agents. A translation service is available upon request. People can also pass on information anonymously via the UK Crimestoppers number 0800 555 111, online at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org) or from Cyprus [www.crimestoppers.org.cy](http://www.crimestoppers.org.cy)

For further information please contact the Crimestoppers Press Office on 020 8835 3737 or email [press.office@crimestoppers-uk.org](mailto:press.office@crimestoppers-uk.org)



**NAME:** Jeffrey Bloor

**DOB:** 12/01/73

**NATIONALITY:** British

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Brighton

**DESCRIPTION:** White male; heavy build; blue eyes; ginger hair; 1.67m tall; surgical scar on left side of abdomen

**EAW ISSUED:** 19/10/12

**ISSUING ORGANISATION:** Sussex Police

**ACCUSATORY/CONVICTION:** Accusatory

**OFFENCES:** Conspiracy to defraud; money laundering

**OFFENCE SUMMARY:** Between 30/4/03 and 13/2/08 Bloor was allegedly involved in a conspiracy relating to the provision of horse racing tipping services, plus various types of advance fee fraud connected to the breeding of racehorses.

A betting brochure was produced and distributed to known gamblers whose details had been obtained from mailing lists. The brochure advertised campaigns guaranteeing large financial returns if you paid a membership fee. There was also the offer of large returns for blood stocks which never existed.

Bloor allegedly operated the company bank account and received money from investors that was distributed to his co-conspirators. This amounted to millions of pounds.

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**NAME:** Richard Ardolino

**DOB:** 31/07/75

**NATIONALITY:** British

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Leeds

**DESCRIPTION:** Slim; short brown hair; scar on right leg

**EAW ISSUED:** 16 /11/11

**ISSUING ORGANISATION:** West Midlands Police

**ACCUSATORY/CONVICTION:** Accusatory

**OFFENCES:** Conspiracy to defraud; money Laundering

**OFFENCE SUMMARY:** Between 13/04/05 and 20/12/07 Ardolino allegedly conspired with others to fraudulently obtain mortgages in order to purchase houses across the UK. The money laundering charge relates to the concealment and transfer of criminal property.

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**NAME:** Osman Aydeniz

**DOB:** 26/08/78

**NATIONALITY:** Cypriot

**LAST RESIDENT IN:** London

**DESCRIPTION:** White male

**EAW ISSUED:** 09/07/13

**ISSUING ORGANISATION:** National Crime Agency

**ACCUSATORY/CONVICTION:** Accusatory

**OFFENCES:** Conspiracy to supply class A drugs; conspiracy to commit theft; money laundering

**OFFENCE SUMMARY:** Aydeniz is wanted in connection with conspiracy to supply 17.83 kg of diamorphine. Three others have already been convicted in connection with this offence. He is also wanted for conspiracy to commit theft and transferring criminal property.

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**NAME:** Ozgur Demir

**DOB:** 06/02/75

**NATIONALITY:** Turkish

**LAST RESIDENT IN:** London

**DESCRIPTION:** White male

**EAW ISSUED:** 09/07/2013

**ISSUING ORGANISATION:** National Crime Agency

**ACCUSATORY/CONVICTION:** Accusatory

**OFFENCES:** Conspiracy to supply class A drugs

**OFFENCE SUMMARY:** Demir is wanted in connection with conspiracy to supply 17.83 kg of diamorphine. Three others have already been convicted in connection with this offence.

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**NAME:** Ersin Mustafa

**DOB:** 30/12/75

**NATIONALITY:** British

**ALIAS:** Ersin Kahraman

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** London

**DESCRIPTION:** Approximately 5ft 6ins tall; dark hair; Mediterranean appearance; stocky/muscular build

**EAW ISSUED:** 19/06/13

**ISSUING ORGANISATION:** City of London Police and Financial Conduct Authority

**ACCUSATORY/CONVICTION:** Accusatory

**OFFENCES:** Eight counts of insider dealing

**OFFENCE SUMMARY:** Between 2006 to 2008, Mustafa is believed to have been involved in insider dealing with seven other individuals. While employed at the London branch of investment bank JP Morgan Cazenove, he allegedly obtained information about future acquisitions and mergers, which were provided to others who then traded using this information. Over a two-year period, the group made approximately £2.5 million in criminal profits. In July 2008 Mustafa was arrested by the City of London Police and then released on bail. It is believed he fled the UK around December 2009.

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**NAME:** Christakis Philippou

**DOB:** 05/11/43

**NATIONALITY:** British

**ALIAS:** Christakis Chrysostomou

**DESCRIPTION:** 1.69m tall; proportionate build, swept back receding dark/graying hair, bushy eyebrows

**EAW ISSUED:** 18/3/14

**ISSUING ORGANISATION:** Metropolitan Police

**ACCUSATORY/CONVICTION:** Conviction

**OFFENCES:** Conspiracy to defraud

**OFFENCE SUMMARY:** Between 2004 and 2006, Philippou was involved in conspiracies where he and his co-defendants repeatedly set out to acquire, or sometimes to set up from scratch, travel agency businesses which were used as vehicles for fraud. The travel agencies attracted customers by offering cut-price holidays. The prices were so low that legitimate companies could not compete with them. In each case, the travel agency ceased to trade, leaving customers without a holiday. This scam defrauded an estimated 20,000 people.

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Existing Zygos appeals:



**NAME:** Hasan Akarcay

**DOB:** 18/07/56

**NATIONALITY:** Cypriot

**ALIASES:** Hassan Etem; Ibrahim Etem

**LAST RESIDENT IN:** London

**DESCRIPTION:** Approximately 5ft 9ins tall; stocky build; large stomach; balding with black hair at the sides, tanned skin

**EAW ISSUED:** 19/01/09

**ISSUING ORGANISATION:** West Yorkshire Police

**ACCUSATORY/CONVICTION:** Accusatory

**OFFENCES:** Conspiracy to supply class A drugs

**OFFENCE SUMMARY:** Akarcay is wanted in connection with the supply of class A drugs after an associate was found transporting 12.5 kilos of diamorphine, with a street value of £600,000 (€758,000), from London to Bradford.

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**NAME:** Timur Mehmet

**DOB:** 13/04/73

**NATIONALITY:** British

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** London

**DESCRIPTION:** Approximately 5ft 10ins tall; slim build, black hair; Asian origin

**EAW ISSUED:** 02/11/11

**ISSUING ORGANISATION:** HMRC

**ACCUSATORY/CONVICTION:** Conviction

**OFFENCES:** Conspiracy to cheat the public revenue

**OFFENCE SUMMARY:** Mehmet is wanted for his role in a conspiracy to cheat the public revenue by operating a Missing Trader Intra-community (MTIC) fraud. This caused a loss to the UK of £25 million (€31.5million).

Mehmet appeared in court in June 2007 and was told that failure to return for his trial in October 2007 could result in him being tried and sentenced in his absence. He failed to attend and was subsequently found guilty. He was sentenced to eight years.

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**NAME:** Costas Sampson

**DOB:** 15/02/91

**NATIONALITY:** Cypriot

**ALIAS:** Kostas

**LAST RESIDENT IN:** London

**DESCRIPTION:** 5ft 9ins tall; large build; Mediterranean complexion; brown eyes; black cropped/shaved hair

**EAW ISSUED:** 12/09/12

**ISSUING ORGANISATION:** Metropolitan Police

**ACCUSATORY/CONVICTION:** Conviction

**OFFENCES:** Rape; theft; voyeurism

**OFFENCE SUMMARY:** On 25/8/12 Sampson was convicted of raping a girl he met at a nightclub in London in February 2010. The girl was taken unwell after accepting a drink from a stranger, and Sampson and a friend offered to take her home. Sampson told one of the girl's friends that he was a medical expert. He later raped the girl at her flat while she was incapacitated. Sampson was also convicted of stealing her mobile phone, plus her flatmate's laptop and games console.

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**NAME:** Mehmet Salih

**DOB:** 10/6/71

**NATIONALITY:** Cypriot

**ALIAS:** Aynur Mehmet Salih

**LAST RESIDENT IN:** London

**DESCRIPTION:** 5ft 6ins tall; brown eyes; short brown hair; scar on right eye

**EAW ISSUED:** 13/04/2012

**ISSUING ORGANISATION:** Leicestershire Police

**ACCUSATORY/CONVICTION:** Accusatory

**OFFENCES:** Conspiracy to supply class A drugs

**OFFENCE SUMMARY:** Between December 2010 and November 2011 Salih is accused of being involved in a conspiracy to supply cocaine. It is believed he was contacted on a regular basis by an associate for the purposes of buying cocaine, delivering it and collecting payments.

In May 2011 Salih allegedly visited Lincolnshire to deliver a quantity of cocaine that was subsequently recovered by the police. He was arrested and was in possession of £20,000 (€25,000). Salih was released on bail to appear at a police station later in the year but failed to attend.

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**NAME:** Martin Evans

**DOB:** 28/1/62

**NATIONALITY:** British

**ALIASES:** Martin Roydon Evans; Martin Wayne Evans; Anthony Hall; Paul Kelly

**ALIAS DOB:** 20/01/62

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Swansea

**DESCRIPTION:** Approximately 5 ft 11ins tall; stocky build; blue eyes; short brown greying hair, Welsh accent; 'ME' tattoo on his right arm

**EAW ISSUED:** 23/08/2012

**ISSUING ORGANISATION:** National Crime Agency

**ACCUSATORY/CONVICTION:** Conviction

**OFFENCES:** Conspiracy to supply class A drugs; fraudulent trading

**OFFENCE SUMMARY:** Between 1999 and 2001 Evans led an organised crime group supplying cocaine, MDMA and ecstasy. The proceeds were converted into foreign currency and transported to the Netherlands to fund further drug consignments.

Evans is also wanted for fraudulent trading as director of an incorporated company, Ostrich Centre Limited, in 1995. Evans stole several hundred thousand pounds invested by members of the public.

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- Crimestoppers is an independent charity which helps the police to solve crimes, making communities safer. It does this by operating the 24/7 telephone number 0800 555 111 which people can ring to pass on information about crimes anonymously. They can also use our 'giving information' form via our website [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org).
- Around 20 people are arrested and charged every day as a result of information given to Crimestoppers.
- Since Crimestoppers began in 1988, it has received over a million actionable calls, resulting in over 126,000 arrests and charges. Over £127 million worth of goods has been recovered and over £301 million worth of drugs has been seized.
- In 2005, Crimestoppers launched the UK's Most Wanted on its website which allows the public to view images of criminals and pass on vital information about their whereabouts. It has been highly successful with over 2,500 arrests to date.
- Crimestoppers UK was founded by Lord Ashcroft, KCMG PC, Chairman of Trustees. In 1988, he launched Crimestoppers in the Metropolitan Police area. Crimestoppers' 'call to action' is built on a three-way partnership between the business community, the police and the media.