**TV Heist Defendant Testimony**

Q. Good morning sir, could you please state your name **for the record1**?

A. Good morning, my name is **José Alfonso Quinteros2**.

Q. Very well, I’m going to ask you to think back to **November 12, 20113**. Do you remember that date?

A. Yes, of course I remember. **You know4**, there are things we are never able to forget.

Q. Let me **back up5** a bit. Have we met before?

A. Yes ma’am, you and I have had **several6** conversations.

Q. As a result of those conversations, did you **plead7** guilty to **distribution of stolen property8**?

A. Well, uh, I plead guilty because my lawyer **advised me9** to tell the truth. **So10**, yes ma’am.

Q. What, **if anything11** did you get in return for pleading guilty?

A. Nothing, **for now12**. If I tell the truth here, **you are supposed to13** notify the judge so I may be **considered14** at the moment of sentencing.

Q. Before **being arrested15** in this case, was most of your **income16** derived from illegal activities?

A. I’m embarrassed to admit it, but honestly I was in a **rough spot17** and that **led me18** to commit some crimes. I just want the judge to know that I **never19** hurt anyone.

Q. Very well. What did you **do for a living20** before beginning **a life of crime21**?

A. **I have been working22** since I was very young. Before my father **passed away23**, he used to take me to his **shop24**, and that’s where I learned to be a mechanic. Before all my problems I was employed at **Briggs Auto Service25**, as a truck mechanic.

Q. Please tell us who the owner of that shop was, if you know.

A. The owner was some **gringo26** named Steven Briggs, but he was never around. **As a matter of fact27**, I started working there and never knew who the owner was.

Q. **Sir28**, did you ever have the opportunity to meet **Mr. Briggs29**?

A. I’m not **quite30** sure of the exact date, but I know I first spoke with him sometime **late October 201131**.

Q. How did you **come to meet32** Mr. Briggs? Did someone **introduce you33** to him?

A. No, I was never introduced. He just showed up one day **out of the blue34** to tell us he was closing down the shop because it was not making enough **revenue35**. That same day he offered us a job so we could make a little extra **dough36**.

Q. Let me interrupt you there **for one second37**… when you say “we”, who are you referring to?

A. Well, I’m talking about me and some of my friends… one of them was named Francisco but we all called him **Pancho Pantera38**, and a **buddy39** of mine from my country called Ismael.

Q. Go on, what did Mr. Briggs say to you, what kind of **deal40** did he offer?

A. Uh, well supposedly we were going to receive a cargo shipment from **God knows where41** and he wanted us to unload it. **I had a bad feeling about it42**, because we had to do it in the middle of the night and present some **fake IDs43** that he gave us.

Q. Did he tell you that what **you would be44** doing was illegal?

A. Of course not, but **I’m no dummy45**. There was obviously something **rotten46** about the whole situation. I should **have known better47**.

Q. **Go on48**; please explain to **the Court49** what you needed to do on that occasion.

A. We had to go to the West Baltimore **shipyard50**, it was important that we should arrive to **dock 1751** before midnight and look for a container on a cargo ship. Since I’m a mechanic, I was asked to bring some tools: a ratchet, a **hacksaw52** and a **blowtorch53**.

Q. So you and your friends **agreed to help54** Mr. Briggs unload said container, is this correct? On the **day in question55** what did you and your **accomplices56** actually do?

A. Me and my boys were in a van we used to pick up **spare parts57**. I was nervous because of the papers we had to present to the guard because I knew they weren’t **legit58**. But the **guy59** let us in so we went to find the container.

Q. So please tell us again the date that these **events60** took place in and, **if you remember61**, the exact time you spoke with the security guard?

A. The Baltimore thing happened November 12, 2011, and when we arrived it was exactly **12:10 am62**.

Q. Well, Mr. Quinteros, it’s been **a while63** since that happened. **How come64** you remember so many details?

A. **As I said65**, there are things you just never forget. We were supposed to get in out in less than an hour… before the **shift change66**… but it took us too long and we were late. The boss had given me a **crude sketch67** of the area and when I looked at it **I noticed68** the time on his watch.

Q. I’m showing you what has been previously marked as **Exhibit 2269** for the **prosecution70**, is this the map you are referring to?

A. Yes. We were looking for the registration number on the side of the ship’s **hull71**. Let's see... um, **F08195672**. When we found it, I got up to the door and I got on the **ladder73** that we had brought. Afterwards, in order to remove one of the panels above us I torched the bolts while Ismael loosened them and Pancho Pantera removed them.

Q. I see, so after you started working on the container’s door, did all the **bolts74** come off quickly or did you have any difficulties?

A. No, it sure wasn’t easy. In fact one of the bolts **wouldn’t budge75** and broke off, luckily I had a **spare76**. We were trying to leave everything the same way we found it.

Q. Once you took the panel off, what did you do then?

A. Well, we immediately started unloading the container. We got out about 20, 25 **42 inch77** flat screen televisions. That took us about an hour. After we were done we replaced the panels, got in the truck and **immediately78** left for Briggs’ workshop.

Q. I see, can you please tell us how long the **whole79** operation took?

A. From the time we arrived to the time we left it was about an hour and **57 minutes80**. Of course, I’m not counting the time it took us to get to Baltimore and back. I’m **just**81 referring to the time inside the dock.

Q. Sounds to me like you ran a very well organized **operation82**, right?

A. Well Miss… **we were hired83** because of the fact that we are professionals.

Q. So you went back to the shop after you had loaded your truck. **By the way84**, where exactly was Steven Briggs’ shop located?

A. At the time, the shop was on Elton Street, very close to where **I used to live85**. I’m not sure if Mr. Briggs would still own a shop there… **know what I mean86**?

Q. On that occasion sir, did you get paid for the job that you and your buddies so professionally executed?

A. Uh, no one evergave me money, I was just given 4 of the **fucking87** T.V’s that we unloaded from the container. That’s why I was so pissed off with the boss. I thought we were getting some cash, not some stupid TVs. What **an asshole88**!

Q. Mr. Quinteros, please **keep your cool89**. I’m sure the judge doesn’t appreciate you using foul language in the courtroom. What did you do with the television sets?

A. Oops! I’m sorry, but the truth is that every time I think about what he did to me and **my boys90**… Now, with the whole T.V thing… I kept one of them, and sold another one. The other two were in my mom’s garage.

Q. How did you **manage91** to sell that one television set? I mean you didn’t have any paperwork or **receipts92** for it, right?

A. You see, that’s where I **screwed up93**. I called one of those radio shows, on 680 LPAM station. They offer free advertising for when you want to sell something, so I placed an ad. After a few hours I got a call from some **Guatemalan94**

Q. How much did you charge that individual for the stolen TV?

A. I asked for $750.00, but we **haggled95** for a bit and finally settled for $500.00 cash. He paid me right then and there with five **Benjamins96**

Q. Not a bad **take97** for less than two hours of work, huh?

A. That’s what I thought, but now it looks like I’m going to spend **at least98** seven years of my life in the **slammer99**.

Q. **Good point100**… Your Honor… could I have a few minutes to check my notes…? I think I’m almost done.