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Fwd: Superyacht Amadea - Day Two Update

1 message

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To: David Vermillion <dv@vermillionadvisors.com>

Tue, May 27, 2025 at 10:06 AM

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From: **David Vermillion** <dv@vermillionadvisors.com>
Date: Thu, Jan 23, 2025 at 7:02 PM
Subject: Superyacht Amadea - Day Two Update
To: David Vermillion <dv@vermillionadvisors.com>

Good Evening,

I represent Eduard Khudainatov, rightful owner of the motoryacht Amadea.

Yesterday was the second day of the evidentiary hearing on the U.S. government's motion to strike in the forfeiture of the motoryacht Amadea. Below you will find highlights of yesterday's proceedings and a quote from Adam Ford, lead counsel for the claimants.

I have attached rough transcripts of the first two days of the hearing. In addition, we have prepared a shared drive including the video testimony of the claimant's witnesses over the first two days and transcripts of those videos, which are not included in the attached files. If you'd like access to the shared drive of video testimony, please respond with your request.

Please contact me for additional detail or to speak to counsel for the claimants.

Best,
Dave

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Day Two Update: Evidentiary Hearing on U.S. Government's Motion to Strike In Forfeiture of Superyacht Amadea**Witness Testimony from Amadea Employees Highlighted DOJ Threats and Intimidation During Interrogation and Material Falsehoods Regarding Witness Statements****FBI Testimony Exposed Details of Hasty, Politically-Motivated Effort to Seize High-Profile Prize for Biden Administration's Marquee Policy**

Quote attributable to Adam Ford, lead counsel for the claimants: "The more evidence and testimony that is produced, the more it becomes clear that the facts are on our side. The government conducted no investigation prior to seizing the Amadea and resorted to desperate, strong-arm tactics to get the statements that fit their false narrative. The government simply fabricated the allegations that Kerimov purchased the Amadea. It is owned by Mr. Khudainatov and always has been."

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Yesterday (01/22/25), the second day of the evidentiary hearing on the DOJ's motion to strike highlighted the extreme lengths to which the Biden Administration went to secure a high-profile quick win for Operation KleptoCapture, the president's marquee foreign policy response to Ukraine. A hasty, abbreviated, and partial investigation led to seizure of the Amadea in Fiji after only weeks. The captain and security chief of the Amadea were held in custody, interrogated, and threatened to elicit coerced disclosures that were then mischaracterized in government reports.

Additional highlights from day two of the proceedings:

- Captain John Walsh, captain of the Amadea, testified under oath that he never knew who the owner of the Amadea was, although he believed it was Eduard Khudainatov. He never told government officials that it was owned by Suleiman Kerimov – directly contradicting sworn statements and documents produced by the government in support of their seizure.
- Martyn Messenger, security chief of the Amadea, testified under oath as to details of his apprehension and detention at LAX airport following the seizure. Messenger's testimony described in detail the intimidation and pressure tactics used by agents for the FBI and Customs and Border Protection, and his time in custody in a holding cell at the airport. Notwithstanding these aggressive investigatory techniques, Messenger never stated he believed Kerimov owned the Amadea, contrary to the government's statements.
- Timothy Bergen, a lead FBI investigator who signed the sworn affidavit to secure the seizure warrant in Fiji, testified as to the tools and methods used by the Department of Justice in the ongoing investigation to substantiate the seizure. The Bergen testimony highlighted the extent to which the government intentionally declined to take investigatory steps where it might lead to evidence inconsistent with its flawed theory. The agent admitted to either not talking to critical witnesses or, if they did talk to them, intentionally not using them as witnesses.

On Friday January 22 the court is expected to hear the testimony of Richard Connelly, an economic expert.

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This material is distributed by Vermillion Advisors on behalf of Eduard Khudainatov. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC

2 attachments



January 22 Amadea Transcript.pdf
238K



January 21 Amadea Transcript.pdf
146K