

## **GUILTY PLEA and PLEA AGREEMENT**

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United States Attorney  
Northern District of Georgia

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
ATLANTA DIVISION  
CRIMINAL NO. 1:19-CR-00036-MHC-JSA

The United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia (“the Government”) and Defendant Hasher Jallal Taheb enter into this plea agreement as set forth below in Part IV pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(C) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. Hasher Jallal Taheb, Defendant, having received a copy of the above-numbered Indictment and having been arraigned, hereby pleads GUILTY to the Indictment.

### **I. ADMISSION OF GUILT**

1. The Defendant admits that he is pleading guilty because he is in fact guilty of the crime charged in the Indictment.

### **II. ACKNOWLEDGMENT & WAIVER OF RIGHTS**

2. The Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, he is giving up the right to plead not guilty and the right to be tried by a jury. At a trial, the Defendant would have the right to an attorney, and if the Defendant could not afford an attorney, the Court would appoint one to represent the Defendant at trial and at every stage of the proceedings. During the trial, the Defendant would be presumed innocent and the Government would have the burden of proving him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. The Defendant would have the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him. If the Defendant wished, he could testify on his own behalf and present evidence in his defense, and he

could subpoena witnesses to testify on his behalf. If, however, the Defendant did not wish to testify, that fact could not be used against him, and the Government could not compel him to incriminate himself. If the Defendant were found guilty after a trial, he would have the right to appeal the conviction.

3. The Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, he is giving up all of these rights and there will not be a trial of any kind.

4. By pleading guilty, the Defendant also gives up any and all rights to pursue any affirmative defenses, Fourth Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims, and other pretrial motions that have been filed or could have been filed.

5. The Defendant also understands that he ordinarily would have the right to appeal his sentence and, under some circumstances, to attack the conviction and sentence in post-conviction proceedings. By entering this Plea Agreement, the Defendant may be waiving some or all of those rights to appeal and to collaterally attack his conviction and sentence, as specified below.

6. Finally, the Defendant understands that, to plead guilty, he may have to answer, under oath, questions posed to him by the Court concerning the rights that he is giving up and the facts of this case, and the Defendant's answers, if untruthful, may later be used against him in a prosecution for perjury or false statements. If the defendant's guilty plea or plea agreement is rejected, withdrawn, vacated, or reversed at any time, this agreement shall be null and void, the United States shall be free to prosecute the defendant for all crimes of which it then has knowledge, and any charges that have been dismissed, pursuant to this plea agreement, shall automatically be reinstated. In such event, the defendant waives any and all objections, motions, and defenses based upon

the Statute of Limitations, the Speedy Trial Act, or constitutional restrictions in bringing later charges or proceedings. The defendant waives any right to claim that statements made before or after the date of this agreement, including the factual basis within this agreement or adopted by the defendant and any other statements made pursuant to this or any other agreement with the United States, should be excluded or suppressed under Fed. R. Evid. 410, Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(f), the Sentencing Guidelines, or any other provision of the Constitution or Federal law.

### **III. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PENALTIES**

7. The Defendant understands that, based on his plea of guilty, he will be subject to the following maximum and mandatory minimum penalties:

#### **As to the sole charge in the Indictment**

#### **(Attempted destruction of U.S. government property by fire or explosive)**

- a. Maximum term of imprisonment: 20 years.
- b. Mandatory minimum term of imprisonment: 5 years.
- c. Maximum term of supervised release: 3 years.
- d. Maximum fine: \$250,000.00, due and payable immediately.
- e. Full restitution, due and payable immediately, to all victims of the offense and relevant conduct.
- f. Mandatory special assessment: \$100.00, due and payable immediately.
- g. Forfeiture of any and all proceeds from the commission of the offense and any explosive materials involved in the offense.

8. The Defendant understands that, before imposing sentence in this case, the Court will be required to consider, among other factors, the provisions of the United States Sentencing Guidelines and that, under certain circumstances, the Court has the discretion to depart from those Guidelines.

9. REMOVAL FROM THE UNITED STATES: The Defendant recognizes that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to his immigration status if he is not a citizen of the United States. Under federal law, a broad range of crimes are removable offenses, including the offense to which the Defendant is pleading guilty. Indeed, because the Defendant is pleading guilty to this offense, removal is presumptively mandatory. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding, however, and the Defendant understands that no one, including his attorney or the District Court, can predict to a certainty the effect of his conviction on his immigration status. The Defendant nevertheless affirms that he wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that his plea may entail, even if the consequence is his automatic removal from the United States.

#### **IV. PLEA AGREEMENT**

10. The Defendant, his counsel, and the Government, subject to approval by the Court, have agreed upon a negotiated plea in this case, the terms of which are as follows:

#### **Binding Sentencing Recommendation**

11. This plea is entered under the specific provisions of Rule 11(c)(1)(C) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. As a product of negotiation between the

parties, the Defendant and the Government expressly recommend that the Court should impose a sentence of 180 months of imprisonment as the appropriate total custodial sentence in this case. Under the provisions of Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(C), this recommendation would bind the Court to impose this particular custodial sentence if the Court accepts this Plea Agreement. If the Court should not accept this Plea Agreement as binding on the parties and the Court, the Government and the Defendant agree that the Court shall permit the Defendant to withdraw his guilty plea pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(5)(B).

### **Sentencing Guidelines Recommendations**

12. Based upon the evidence currently known to the Government, the Government agrees to make the following recommendations and/or to enter into the following stipulations.

#### **Base/Adjusted Offense Level**

13. The offense to which the Defendant is entering a guilty plea, Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(f), is a felony that involved, or was intended to promote a federal crime of terrorism, specifically violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 844(f)(2) and 844(f)(3). Therefore, pursuant to Section 3A1.4 of the United States Sentencing Guidelines, the offense level is increased by 12 levels and the Defendant's criminal history category is Category VI.

#### **Acceptance of Responsibility**

14. The Government will recommend that the Defendant receive an offense level adjustment for acceptance of responsibility, pursuant to Section 3E1.1, to the maximum extent authorized by the guideline. However, the Government will

not be required to recommend acceptance of responsibility if, after entering this Plea Agreement, the Defendant engages in conduct inconsistent with accepting responsibility. Thus, by way of example only, should the Defendant falsely deny or falsely attempt to minimize the Defendant's involvement in relevant offense conduct, give conflicting statements about the Defendant's involvement, fail to pay the special assessment, fail to meet any of the obligations set forth in the Financial Cooperation Provisions set forth below, or participate in additional criminal conduct, including unlawful personal use of a controlled substance, the Government will not be required to recommend acceptance of responsibility.

**Right to Answer Questions, Correct Misstatements,  
and Make Recommendations**

15. The parties reserve the right to inform the Court and the Probation Office of all facts and circumstances regarding the Defendant and this case, and to respond to any questions from the Court and the Probation Office and to any misstatements of fact or law. Except as expressly stated elsewhere in this Plea Agreement, the parties also reserve the right to make recommendations regarding application of the Sentencing Guidelines. The parties understand, acknowledge, and agree that there are no agreements between the parties with respect to any Sentencing Guidelines issues other than those specifically listed.

**Right to Modify Recommendations**

16. With regard to the Government's recommendation as to any specific application of the Sentencing Guidelines as set forth elsewhere in this Plea Agreement, the Defendant understands and agrees that, should the Government obtain or receive additional evidence concerning the facts underlying any such

recommendation, the Government will bring that evidence to the attention of the Court and the Probation Office. In addition, if the additional evidence is sufficient to support a finding of a different application of the Guidelines, the Government will not be bound to make the recommendation set forth elsewhere in this Plea Agreement, and the failure to do so will not constitute a violation of this Plea Agreement.

### **Sentencing Recommendations**

#### **Specific Sentence Recommendation**

17. Unless the Defendant engages in conduct inconsistent with accepting responsibility, as described more fully in paragraph 14, the Government agrees to recommend that the Defendant be sentenced to 180 months of imprisonment.

#### **Fine - No Recommendation as to Amount**

18. The Government agrees to make no specific recommendation as to the amount of the fine to be imposed on the Defendant within the applicable guideline range.

### **Financial Cooperation Provisions**

#### **Special Assessment**

22. The Defendant understands that the Court will order him to pay a special assessment in the amount of \$100.

#### **Fine/Restitution - Terms of Payment**

23. The Defendant agrees to pay any fine and/or restitution imposed by the Court to the Clerk of Court for eventual disbursement to the appropriate account and/or victim(s). The Defendant also agrees that the full fine and/or restitution

amount shall be considered due and payable immediately. If the Defendant cannot pay the full amount immediately and is placed in custody or under the supervision of the Probation Office at any time, he agrees that the custodial agency and the Probation Office will have the authority to establish payment schedules to ensure payment of the fine and/or restitution. The Defendant understands that this payment schedule represents a minimum obligation and that, should the Defendant's financial situation establish that he is able to pay more toward the fine and/or restitution, the Government is entitled to pursue other sources of recovery of the fine and/or restitution. The Defendant further agrees to cooperate fully in efforts to collect the fine and/or restitution obligation by any legal means the Government deems appropriate. Finally, the Defendant and his counsel agree that the Government may contact the Defendant regarding the collection of any fine and/or restitution without notifying and outside the presence of his counsel.

### **Financial Disclosure**

24. The Defendant agrees that the Defendant will not sell, hide, waste, encumber, destroy, or otherwise devalue any such asset worth more than \$1,000 before sentencing, without the prior approval of the Government. The Defendant understands and agrees that the Defendant's failure to comply with this provision of the Plea Agreement should result in the Defendant receiving no credit for acceptance of responsibility.

25. The Defendant agrees to cooperate fully in the investigation of the amount of forfeiture, restitution, and fine; the identification of funds and assets in which

he has any legal or equitable interest to be applied toward forfeiture, restitution, and/or fine; and the prompt payment of restitution or a fine.

26. The Defendant's cooperation obligations include: (A) fully and truthfully completing the Department of Justice's Financial Statement of Debtor form, and any addenda to said form deemed necessary by the Government, within ten days of the change of plea hearing; (B) submitting to a financial deposition or interview (should the Government deem it necessary) prior to sentencing regarding the subject matter of said form; (C) providing any documentation within his possession or control requested by the Government regarding his financial condition and that of his household; (D) fully and truthfully answering all questions regarding his past and present financial condition and that of his household in such interview(s); and (E) providing a waiver of his privacy protections to permit the Government to access his credit report and tax information held by the Internal Revenue Service.

27. So long as the Defendant is completely truthful, the Government agrees that anything related by the Defendant during his financial interview or deposition or in the financial forms described above cannot and will not be used against him in the Government's criminal prosecution. However, the Government may use the Defendant's statements to identify and to execute upon assets to be applied to the fine and/or restitution in this case. Further, the Government is completely free to pursue any and all investigative leads derived in any way from the interview(s)/deposition(s)/financial forms, which could result in the acquisition of evidence admissible against the Defendant in subsequent proceedings. If the Defendant subsequently takes a position in any

legal proceeding that is inconsistent with the interview(s)/ deposition(s)/ financial forms—whether in pleadings, oral argument, witness testimony, documentary evidence, questioning of witnesses, or any other manner—the Government may use the Defendant’s interview(s)/ deposition(s)/ financial forms, and all evidence obtained directly or indirectly therefrom, in any responsive pleading and argument and for cross-examination, impeachment, or rebuttal evidence. Further, the Government may also use the Defendant’s interview(s)/ deposition(s)/ financial forms to respond to arguments made or issues raised *sua sponte* by the Magistrate or District Court.

**Binding Sentence is Reasonable**

28. The parties agree that there is no aggravating or mitigating circumstance of a kind, or to a degree, not adequately taken into consideration by the terms of the binding sentencing agreement in this case. The parties also concur that the agreed-upon binding sentence set forth in this Plea Agreement is reasonable pursuant to the factors outlined at Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a).

**Limited Waiver of Appeal**

29. LIMITED WAIVER OF APPEAL: To the maximum extent permitted by federal law, the Defendant voluntarily and expressly waives the right to appeal his conviction and sentence and the right to collaterally attack his conviction and sentence in any post-conviction proceeding (including, but not limited to, motions filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255) on any ground. Claims that the Defendant’s counsel rendered constitutionally ineffective assistance are excepted from this waiver. The Defendant understands that this Plea Agreement does not

limit the Government's right to appeal, but if the Government initiates a direct appeal of the sentence imposed, the Defendant may file a cross-appeal of that same sentence.

Miscellaneous Waivers

**FOIA/Privacy Act Waiver**

30. The Defendant hereby waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including, without limitation, any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552, or the Privacy Act of 1974, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a.

No Other Agreements

31. There are no other agreements, promises, representations, or understandings between the Defendant and the Government.

In Open Court this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

*[Signature]*  
stand  
By  
counsel  
SIGNATURE (Defendant's Attorney)  
Vionnette Johnson

*Hasher Taheb*  
SIGNATURE (Defendant)  
Hasher Jallal Taheb

*[Signature]*  
SIGNATURE (Assistant U.S. Attorney)  
Ryan K. Buchanan

/s/Matthew Carrico  
SIGNATURE (Assistant U.S. Attorney)  
Matthew Carrico

/s/Richard S. Moultrie Jr.

SIGNATURE (Approving Official)

Richard S. Moultrie, Jr.

I have read the Indictment against me and have discussed it with my attorney. I understand the charges and the elements of each charge that the Government would have to prove to convict me at a trial. I have read the foregoing Plea Agreement and have carefully reviewed every part of it with my attorney. I understand the terms and conditions contained in the Plea Agreement, and I voluntarily agree to them. I also have discussed with my attorney the rights I may have to appeal or challenge my conviction and sentence, and I understand that the appeal waiver contained in the Plea Agreement will prevent me, with the narrow exceptions stated, from appealing my conviction and sentence or challenging my conviction and sentence in any post-conviction proceeding. No one has threatened or forced me to plead guilty, and no promises or inducements have been made to me other than those discussed in the Plea Agreement. The discussions between my attorney and the Government toward reaching a negotiated plea in this case took place with my permission. I am fully satisfied with the representation provided to me by my attorney in this case.

Hasher Taheb

SIGNATURE (Defendant)

Hasher Jallal Taheb

4/1/2020

DATE

I am Hasher Jallal Taheb's lawyer. I have carefully reviewed the charges and the Plea Agreement with my client. To my knowledge, my client is making an informed and voluntary decision to plead guilty and to enter into the Plea Agreement.


Stand  
by Counsel
4/1/20

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SIGNATURE (Defendant's Attorney)      DATE  
 Vionnette Johnson

\_\_\_\_\_ State Bar of Georgia Number

Filed in Open Court

This 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2020

By Mark P. Cohen

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Statement of Special Assessment Account

This statement reflects your special assessment only. There may be other penalties imposed at sentencing.

ACCOUNT INFORMATION	
CRIMINAL ACTION NO.:	1:19-cr-00036-MHC-JSA
DEFENDANT'S NAME:	HASHER JALLAL TAHEB
PAY THIS AMOUNT:	\$100

Instructions:

1. Payment must be made by **certified check** or **money order** payable to:  
Clerk of Court, U.S. District Court  
**\*personal checks will not be accepted\***
2. Payment must be made to the clerk's office by the day of sentencing.
3. Payment should be sent or hand delivered to:  
Clerk, U.S. District Court  
2211 U.S. Courthouse  
75 Ted Turner Drive SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
(Do Not Send Cash)
4. Include the defendant's name on **certified check** or **money order**.
5. Enclose this coupon to insure proper and prompt application of payment.
6. Provide proof of payment to the above-signed AUSA within 30 days of the guilty plea.