

PATRICK D. ROBBINS (CABN 152288)  
Acting United States Attorney

MARTHA BOERSCH (CABN 126569)  
Chief, Criminal Division

MAUREEN C. BESSETTE (CABN 165775)  
Assistant United States Attorney

1301 Clay Street, Suite 340S  
Oakland, California 94612  
Telephone: (510) 637-3680  
Fax: (510) 637-3724  
Email: [Maureen.Bessette@usdoj.gov](mailto:Maureen.Bessette@usdoj.gov)

Attorneys for United States of America

**FILED**

Apr 03 2025

Mark B. Busby  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE EXTRADITION ) CASE NO. 3:25-mj-70394 MAG  
OF: BAO TU LUU A/K/A CHRIS LUU, "BIG )  
BROTHER," "BB" ) **GOVERNMENT'S COMPLAINT FOR**  
 ) **PROVISIONAL ARREST VIEW TOWARDS**  
 ) **EXTRADITION UNDER 18 U.S.C § 3184**  
 ) **UNDER SEAL**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The United States of America, through its undersigned counsel, respectfully files under seal this complaint for provisional arrest view towards extradition of Bao Tu Luu (the "Fugitive"). The records and other information requested are set forth in the Attached Arrest Warrant and Criminal Complaint filed herewith.

**II. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

I, the undersigned Assistant United States Attorney, being duly sworn, state on information and belief that the following is true and correct:

1. In this matter, I represent the United States in fulfilling its treaty obligation to Australia.

1           2. There is an extradition treaty in force between the United States and the Government  
2 of Australia, Treaty on Extradition Between the United States of America and Australia, U.S.-  
3 Austl., May 14, 1974, 27 U.S.T. 957, *as amended by* Protocol Amending the 1974 Extradition  
4 Treaty with Australia, U.S.-Austl., Sept. 4, 1990, S. TREATY DOC. NO. 102-23 (1992)  
5 (collectively, the “Treaty”).

6           3. The Treaty provides in Article XII for the provisional arrest and detention of alleged  
7 fugitives pending the submission of a formal request for extradition and supporting documents.

8           4. In accordance with Article XII of the Treaty, the Government of Australia has asked  
9 the United States for the provisional arrest of Bao Tu Luu, a/k/a Chris Luu, “Big Brother,” “BB”  
10 (“LUU”) with a view towards his extradition.

11           5. According to the information provided by the Government of Australia, LUU is  
12 wanted for prosecution on a charge of conspiracy to import a commercial quantity of a border-  
13 controlled drug, to wit: 178 kilograms of cocaine, in violation of sections 11.5(1) and 307.1(1) of  
14 the Australian Criminal Code.

15           6. These offenses were committed within the jurisdiction of Australia. The Melbourne  
16 Magistrates Court in the State of Victoria, Australia, issued a warrant for LUU’s arrest on April  
17 2, 2025.

18           7. Australia seeks LUU’s provisional arrest with a view toward extradition based on the  
19 following facts:

- 20           (a) Between February 2016 and June 2017, the Australian Federal Police (“AFP”)  
21           investigated a transnational organized crime syndicate involved in the  
22           importation of a commercial quantity of border-controlled drugs. The AFP’s  
23           investigations specifically focused on the activities of three specific individuals,  
24           and their associates in Australia, Canada, Colombia, Panama and Vietnam, who  
25           were conspiring to import a commercial quantity of cocaine into Australia. The  
26           AFP also investigated the offshore activities of another individual, Van Hieu LE  
27

1 (“LE”) and LUU, who is alleged to be the group’s superior overseeing the  
2 organization and financing of the supplies of cocaine.

3 (b) Australian authorities allege that LUU is based in Vietnam. Two of his  
4 associates, including LE, were based in Canada and travelled to Australia to  
5 oversee the arrival of drugs. Afterwards, they would coordinate the collection of  
6 the drugs and make payments to AFP undercover operatives (“UCOs”) who were  
7 facilitating their entry into Australia.  
8

9 (c) UCOs met with LE, LUU, and other key syndicate members throughout the  
10 investigation. This engagement granted the AFP UCOs an understanding of the  
11 syndicate structure and identified LUU as the syndicate leader. LUU also  
12 admitted his role as the head of the transnational drug trafficking syndicate in  
13 recorded conversations and text messages exchanges with an AFP UCO.  
14 Moreover, as part of their investigation, Australian authorities lawfully obtained  
15 more than one thousand images, text messages and recordings exchanged  
16 between LUU, LE, and the UCOs. In these messages, LUU exchanged  
17 numerous incriminating messages, which included sending images of the blocks  
18 of cocaine, details of the shipping container, and details of the specific location  
19 of the bags containing cocaine within the shipping container.  
20

21 (d) In February 2016, LE and other key syndicate members developed plans for an  
22 initial test import of 100 kilograms of cocaine from Panama to Australia. LUU  
23 was not involved in the test import. The venture, which was conducted  
24 independently by LE, was an arrangement between the syndicate and AFP  
25 UCOs, who were paid by the syndicate to facilitate the entry of the drugs into  
26 Australia without triggering border security measures. The test import was  
27  
28

1           unsuccessful, and subsequently, the AFP determined that the test import had  
2           been “hijacked” by the syndicate’s port contacts in Panama.

3           (e) Given the failure of the test run, LE sought LUU’s assistance with plans for a  
4           new importation of a larger quantity of drugs and introduced the UCOs to LUU.  
5           LE advised his co-conspirators that he would call on LUU, the syndicate’s head  
6           based in Vietnam who he referred to as “Big Brother,” to be directly involved  
7           organizing the new importation. LE informed the UCOs that no one would  
8           attempt to hijack a load belonging to “Big Brother,” as LUU had contacts at the  
9           top of the Colombian drug cartel which included highly ranked corrupt officials  
10          on the docks and within governments.

11  
12          (f) In August 2016, LE and another associate introduced the UCOs to LUU via  
13          “SkyECC” encrypted communication chat groups. LUU, using the following  
14          encrypted communications identities: “circlesilent@hash.xxx,” “Big Brother,”  
15          “ShutTheFuckUp,” “HushTheFuckUp,” and “SlaughterNine” communicated  
16          with UCOs and other syndicate members. The UCOs gave LUU detailed  
17          explanations of their purported import methodology.

18  
19          (g) In November 2016, the UCOs physically met with LUU in Ho Chi Minh City,  
20          Vietnam, to continue planning an importation of 100 kilograms of cocaine into  
21          Australia. At that meeting, LUU introduced himself as “Chris” and confirmed  
22          that he was the group chat participant conversing with the UCOs.<sup>1</sup> He stated that  
23          he would personally handle arrangements with his established South American  
24          contacts to source cocaine, to conceal it in a designated shipping container, to  
25  
26  
27

---

28           <sup>1</sup> Law enforcement has identified “Chris” as one of LUU’s commonly used aliases.

1 load it onto a chosen vessel, and to make the associated payments. This  
2 discussion with LUU took place in a steam room at a Spa in Ho Chi Minh City,  
3 assessed to be a precautionary selection to avoid law enforcement infiltration.

4 (h) Between August 2016 and June 2017, the UCOs maintained contact with LUU  
5 via “SkyECC,” and then later with “Cipher Elite” encrypted communications  
6 devices. All aspects of the importation were openly discussed, down to the  
7 breakdown of financial responsibilities. LUU offered to cover virtually all costs,  
8 including cashing out the UCOs for their share of the cocaine upon completion  
9 of the importation. The AFP determined that LUU was motivated to see the  
10 importation through successfully because he wanted exclusive rights to the  
11 importation service provided by the UCOs.  
12

13 (i) On June 26, 2017, the cocaine shipment successfully arrived and was  
14 immediately intercepted by an AFP lead joint taskforce in Melbourne, Australia.  
15 A subsequent controlled delivery, which was monitored by LUU, resulted in the  
16 seizure of 78 kilograms of cocaine and AUD 500,000 (approximately \$378,681  
17 USD)<sup>2</sup> cash and the arrest of seven syndicate members acting on behalf of LUU,  
18 including, LE.  
19

20 (j) For the last decade, LUU has primarily resided in Vietnam, which does not  
21 extradite its own nationals. LUU has amassed significant assets and business  
22 interests and lives a lavish lifestyle in Vietnam, including enjoying personal  
23 relationships with highly placed government officials. As a dual citizen of the  
24 United States and Vietnam, LUU holds passports from both countries and travels  
25  
26

---

27 <sup>2</sup> The USD amount was determined using a historical currency converter:  
28 <https://fxtop.com/en/historical-currency-converter.php>

1 using both passports at different legs of his travels to avoid visa requirements  
2 and to obfuscate his movements.

3 8. Article II(1)(28) of the Treaty covers the offense for which LUU is accused.

4 9. LUU can be found within the jurisdiction of this Court. LUU was arrested in Santa  
5 Clara County, California, on April 1, 2025, and is scheduled for a bail hearing in the Santa Clara  
6 County Court on April 3, 2025.

7 10. The Government of Australia has represented that it will submit a formal request for  
8 extradition supported by the documents specified in the Treaty, within the time required under  
9 the Treaty.

10 11. The Government of Australia has represented that it will submit a formal request for  
11 extradition supported by the documents specified in the Treaty, within the time required under  
12 the Treaty.

13 **III. CONCLUSION**

14 WHEREFORE, the undersigned requests that a warrant for the arrest of the aforementioned  
15 person be issued in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 3184 and the extradition treaty between the  
16 United States and Australia.

17  
18 DATED: April 3, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

19 PATRICK D. ROBBINS  
20 Acting United States Attorney

21   
22 MAUREEN C. BESSETTE  
23 Assistant United States Attorney