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U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

Office of International Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20530

TO:

The Central Authority of the State of Israel

SUBJECT:

URGENT Supplemental Request for Assistance in the Investigation and

Prosecution of Eliyahu Cohen

FILE NO.:

182-5695

DATE:

September 24, 2018

The Central Authority of the United States of America requests the assistance of the Central Authority of the State of Israel to obtain evidence, for use in a criminal investigation or any criminal proceeding, pursuant to the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the State of Israel on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Tel Aviv on January 26, 1998, with a related exchange of notes signed the same date, that entered into force on May 25, 1999 (Treaty).

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut, the Counterintelligence and Export Control Section of the U.S. Department of Justice (the prosecutors), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security – Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Industry and Security, and the U.S. Department of Defense – Defense Criminal Investigative Services (collectively, the U.S. authorities) are investigating and prosecuting Eliyahu Cohen (Cohen) for violations of U.S. criminal laws by committing export law violations.

This request supplements the initial request for assistance in this matter, dated November 20, 2013 (initial request), and incorporates by reference the facts, offenses, and persons and entities involved of the initial request. This supplemental request seeks permission for the U.S. authorities to conduct a voluntary interview of Cohen concerning his business plan, acquisition of parts, distribution of parts, dealings with U.S. and foreign intermediaries, and dealings with international customers, including those in Iran, in order to assess his ability to cooperate with the U.S. authorities. The U.S. authorities would like to conduct the questioning of Cohen, with his attorney present.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The details of this U.S. investigation are considered sensitive. Therefore, pursuant to Article 5.5 of the Treaty, please treat this document, its contents, and the fact that this request has

been made and the results of its execution as confidential and do not disclose it publicly or share it with the subjects of the investigation. Also, please instruct all who must be made aware of this request for purposes of its execution, that the request its contents and subject matter be kept confidential and should not be disclosed publicly. If the request cannot be executed without public disclosure, the prosecutor asks that the Central Authority of Israel notify the Central Authority of the United States before any action is taken toward its execution.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

Please schedule the interview during the week of October 22, 2018, as Cohen's extradition has been delayed several times. The U.S. authorities believe that the voluntary interview with Cohen will expedite the resolution of the extradition.

ADDITIONAL FACTS

The U.S. authorities believe that Cohen is willing to participate in a voluntary interview that could provide useful information to the U.S. authorities regarding his business. The prosecutors want to assess Cohen's ability to cooperate before finalizing any plea agreement and determining what sort of plea the prosecutors can offer. If Cohen cooperates successfully, the prosecutors would likely have him plead with a plea agreement and a cooperation agreement. The cooperation agreement would provide that the prosecutors will not argue for any specific term of imprisonment at sentencing.

The meeting in October would be the first step towards a plea agreement and a cooperation agreement. The final resolution of the extradition proceedings would depend on how truthful and forthcoming Cohen is, as well as the quality of his information.

ASSISTANCE REQUESTED

The U.S. authorities request that they be allowed to conduct a voluntary interview with Cohen concerning his business plan, acquisition of parts, distribution of parts, dealings with U.S. and foreign intermediaries, and dealings with international customers, including those in Iran, in order to assess his ability to cooperate with the U.S. authorities. The purpose of the interview is to gauge Cohen's interest in and willingness to cooperate in potential investigations or other persons who may be involved in violating U.S. export laws.

The interview would take place under the terms of the standard proffer agreement of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut, which provides, in relevant part, that the information provided by Cohen during the interview would not be admissible in any trial against him unless certain circumstances occur, such as if he knowingly provides false or misleading statements or information or if he becomes a fugitive from justice. Neither the invitation for the interview nor the proffer agreement shall be construed as obligating the U.S. authorities to enter into a cooperation agreement with Cohen, through which he would receive credit at sentencing. After the interview, the U.S. authorities will evaluate the information Cohen provided and decide whether to proceed with a cooperation agreement.

The U.S. authorities request that they be allowed to ask the questions during the interview and that a list of questions not be presented to Cohen in advance, so that he does not have time to prepare potentially untrue answers.

The U.S. authorities request that Cohen's attorney be allowed to be present during the interview, since he would be allowed to be present if this type of interview were conducted in the United States.

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED

A. Witness Interview

- 1. Please coordinate the execution of this request with Matthew Thompson, DHS Attaché, at 03.519.7489 or Matthew.Thompson@dhs.gov.
- 2. Please have Cohen and his attorney execute the standard proffer agreement form.
- 3. Please permit the U.S. authorities, particularly Special Agents David Mello, James Brigham, and David Guida, and prosecutors Sarala Nagala and David Recker, to conduct the interviews along with an Israeli law enforcement officer and to participate in the questioning to the greatest extent possible, including the ability to pose questions directly to the witnesses. If this is not possible, please permit the investigators to pose follow-up questions after the Israeli authorities pose the initial questions.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information, please contact Richard Preston, Office of International Affairs, Criminal Division, United States Department of Justice, at 202-353-7540 or by email at Richard.Preston@usdoj.gov.

CONCLUSION

Please extend our gratitude to all Israeli authorities for their cooperation in this matter. Further, we thank you for your attention and efforts regarding this request, pertaining to the investigation and prosecution of Eliyahu Cohen, and others, and extend the assurance of our highest consideration.

Date

Jeffrey M. Olson Associate Director



U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division Office of International Affairs

VAA:WHG;JMO;RKP;hh DOJ#: 182-5695

Washington, D.C. 20530

September 24, 2018

BY EMAIL

Chief
Attn: Asher Sprecher
Legal Assistance Unit
Special Operations Division
Investigations and Intelligence Department
Headquarters, Bar-Lev Street
Jerusalem, Israel 91906

Re: <u>URGENT Request for Assistance in the Investigation and Prosecution of Eliyahu</u>

Cohen

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed please find an urgent request for assistance concerning the above-referenced matter. In conformity with the mutual legal assistance treaty in force between our two governments, the original request has been sent directly to the Israeli Directorate of Courts.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut, the Counterintelligence and Export Control Section of the U.S. Department of Justice (the prosecutors), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security – Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Industry and Security, and the U.S. Department of Defense – Defense Criminal Investigative Services (collectively, the U.S. authorities) are investigating and prosecuting Eliyahu Cohen (Cohen) for violations of U.S. criminal laws by committing export law violations.

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If you have any questions or concerns during the execution of this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 353-7540, or by email at Richard Preston@usdoj.gov. In my absence, please contact International Affairs Specialist Hannah Hindel at (202) 616-2948 or by email at Hannah.Hindel@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,

Vaughn A. Ary

Director

By:

Richard Preston Trial Attorney

Enclosures: As stated