

Diepreye Alamiyeseigha (Cyprus)

Case ID:

ARW-50

Jurisdiction of Origin of Public Official or Entity Allegedly Involved:

Nigeria

Position of Public Official(s) (yrs in office):

Governor (1999-2005)

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery:

Cyprus

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery ? Description:

Location of Recovery Effort, Asset Location / Alleged Asset Location

Asset Recovery Start:

1999

Asset Recovery End:

Unknown

UNCAC Offenses Implicated:

Art.19

Art.20

Art.23

Money laundering Implicated:

Yes

Legal Basis for Asset Recovery:

Private Civil Action

Intl.Cooperation: MLAT/Letter of Request?:

Unknown

Basis for Intl Cooperation:

Unknown

Contributing Factors in Asset Recovery:

Nigeria's lawyers in the civil case carried out the enforcement of the judgment in Cyprus.

(Source: StAR Case Study, attached PDF)

Status of Asset Recovery :

Completed

Assets Returned (USD) - Description:

Unspecified amount; Please see UK entry for worldwide total of assets returned.

Agreement for Returned Assets:

No

Agreement for Returned Assets - Description:

NA

Case Summary:

Nigeria brought a civil suit against Santolina Investment Corporation, an entity that was the purported owner of properties purchased with Mr. Alamiyeseigha's criminal proceeds and in relation to approximately GBP 1 million on deposit in Cyprus (as of the date of EWHC judgment in related case on December 1, 2007, equivalent of U.S. \$2,062,470). According to a case study by the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, a July 2008 judgment by a United Kingdom court led to the confiscation of assets in the United Kingdom, Cyprus and Denmark.

Nigeria's lawyers in the civil case carried out the enforcement of the judgment in Cyprus. (Source: StAR Case Study, accessed at http://www1.worldbank.org/publicsector/star_site/documents/Case_Studies_...)

Disposition of Criminal Case(s):

According to the December 3, 2007 UK High Court decision in Nigeria v. Santolina Investment Corp and Ors, Mr. Alamiyeseigha entered a guilty plea in Nigeria's High Court to six counts of making false declaration of assets. According to the same judgment, Mr. Alamiyeseigha was arrested at Heathrow Airport in September 2005 by officers of the Metropolitan Police and initially remanded but later granted bail. In breach of his bail requirements, he left UK and returned to Nigeria in November 2005. (Source: Nigeria v. Santolina Investment Corp and Ors, [2007] EWHC 3053 (Q.B.)) In March 2013, he was pardoned in Nigeria. (Source: BBC News, "Nigeria pardons Goodluck Jonathan ally, Alamiyeseigha," March 13, 2013.)

Jurisdiction of Origin: Investigative Agency:

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission

Jurisdiction of Origin: Prosecuting Authority/Civil Attorney(s):

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission

Jurisdiction of Origin: Courts Involved:

Federal High Court (Lagos)

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery: Investigative Agency:

NA

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery: Prosecuting Authority/Civil Attorney(s):

Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP (James Maton, Tim Daniel)

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery: Courts Involved:



Unknown

Documents:

Alamiyeseigha_2007_EWHC_3053 (QB).rtf

Alamiyeseigha_StAR_Case_Study.pdf

Documents:

Attachment	Size
 Alamiyeseigha_Pardon_BBC_News_Mar_13_2013.pdf	172.36 KB
 Alamiyeseigha_StAR_Case_Study.pdf	90.28 KB

Other Sources:

Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative Case Study, "Diepreye Alamiyeseigha" (attached PDF); Republic of Nigeria v. Santolina & Ors, [2007] EWHC 3053 (QB), Judgment dated December 3, 2007.

BBC News, "Nigeria pardons Goodluck Jonathan ally, Alamiyeseigha," March 13, 2013, at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-21769047>.