

PRESS RELEASE

Bank contractor indicted for loading debit cards with fraudulent funds

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Texas

HOUSTON – A Houston woman who worked as a contractor for a national bank has been taken into custody on wire fraud and conspiracy charges, announced U.S. Attorney Alamdar S. Hamdani.

Jaysha Victorian, 23, has already made her initial appearance in federal court before U.S. Magistrate Judge Dena Hanovice Palermo.

A federal grand jury returned the two-count indictment Nov. 20, which was unsealed upon her arrest.

In the span of just a few weeks in January 2021, Victorian allegedly utilized her access to the victim bank's systems to load prepaid debit cards with fraudulent credits when she knew no such credits were warranted. The charges allege the debit cards included prepaid cards that were used to provide unemployment benefits, including for the state of California.

According to the indictment, cardholders were able to withdraw the fraudulent funds from bank branches and ATMs before the credited money could be rescinded.

Victorian's conduct allegedly resulted in over \$8 million of fraudulent credits, over \$7 million of which were withdrawn or used.

If convicted, Victorian faces up to 20 years in prison for the wire fraud charge as well five years for the conspiracy. Both convictions also carry fines of up to \$250,000.

The FBI, Department of Homeland Security - Office of Inspector General (OIG) and Department of Labor-OIG conducted the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Brad Gray and Karen Lansden are prosecuting the case.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence. A defendant is presumed innocent unless convicted through due process of law.

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