



United States Attorney's Office District of Connecticut Press Release

November
15, 2007

FORMER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EMPLOYEE ADMITS MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS

Kevin J. O'Connor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that BEATRICE C. RUIZ, 56, of Norwalk, Connecticut, pleaded guilty today before Senior United States District Judge Ellen Bree Burns in New Haven to one count of making a false statement.

According to documents filed with the Court and statements made in court, RUIZ was a U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) engineer at the *Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation* in Stratford, Connecticut. On December 7, 2004, RUIZ completed a government form (SF-86) in connection with her background investigation for her application for a Top Secret security clearance. Question 17c asked "Have you ever had any contact with a foreign government, its establishments (embassies or consulates), or its representatives, whether inside or outside the U.S., other than on official U.S. Government business? (Does not include routine visa applications and border crossing contacts.)" RUIZ answered "No." In signing this document, RUIZ certified as follows: "My statements on this form, and any attachments to it, are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and are made in good faith. I understand that a knowing and willful false statement on this form can be punished by fine or imprisonment or both. (See section 1001 of title 18, United States Code)."

On December 13, 2005, RUIZ was interviewed by a federal investigator. The investigator reviewed in detail RUIZ' SF-86 with RUIZ question by question, reading each question as it appeared on the SF-86 and eliciting a response from RUIZ for each question. The investigator repeated question 17c, and RUIZ explicitly answered "No" to the investigator's question.

At the time she answered the investigator's question, RUIZ knew that, since at least 1999, she had maintained a social and business relationship

with an official of the Colombian consulate in New York, New York.

RUIZ and the Government have agreed that RUIZ's social and business activities were intended for her personal benefit, and the evidence does not suggest that any of these activities involved a misuse of classified information or was undertaken to harm the security interests of the United States.

Judge Burns has scheduled sentencing for March 18, 2008, at which time RUIZ faces a maximum term of imprisonment of five years and a fine of up to \$250,000.

This case was investigated by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service of the Department of Defense. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Christopher W. Schmeisser.

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