



Portfolio Media, Inc. | 111 West 19th Street, 5th floor | New York, NY 10011 | www.law360.com
Phone: +1 646 783 7100 | Fax: +1 646 783 7161 | customerservice@law360.com

Ex-Trump Adviser Released On \$250M Bond In Lobbying Case

By **Stewart Bishop**

Law360 (July 23, 2021, 6:03 PM EDT) -- Thomas Barrack, a onetime adviser to former President Donald Trump, was ordered Friday to be released from jail on an eye-popping \$250 million bond, following his indictment on charges of acting as an undeclared agent of a foreign government by secretly lobbying on behalf of the United Arab Emirates.



Thomas Barrack was arrested on Tuesday on charges of acting as an agent of the UAE, conspiracy, making false statements and obstruction of justice. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip, File)

Barrack, 74, has been locked up since Tuesday after being arrested for allegedly acting as an agent of the UAE, conspiracy, making false statements and obstructing justice.

Federal prosecutors in New York and the U.S. Department of Justice's National Security Division say Barrack unlawfully worked to advance UAE's interests in the U.S. during the 2016 Trump campaign and sought to influence the foreign policy positions of the U.S. during the Trump administration.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Patricia Donahue in Los Angeles on Tuesday initially ordered Barrack jailed pending a further detention hearing.

On Friday morning, Judge Donahue signed off on an agreed-upon bail package consisting of a \$250 million bond secured by \$5 million in cash and the signatures of multiple suretors.

Barrack, a private equity investor, purported billionaire and founder of real estate investment trust Colony Capital Inc., now known as DigitalBridge Group Inc., is scheduled to be arraigned in the Eastern District of New York on Monday.

Judge Donahue also ordered the release of Barrack's co-defendant, former Colony Capital staffer Matthew Grimes, 27, on a \$5 million bond secured by \$2.5 million in property.

Barrack and Grimes were originally set to stay in jail until at least Monday, but Matt Herrington of Paul Hastings LLP, Barrack's counsel, told Judge Donahue that his side "moved great mountains" to get the longtime friends of Trump's out of jail before the weekend.

A third defendant — the purported well-connected middleman between Barrack and high-ranking UAE officials — Rashid Sultan Rashid al Malik Alshahhi, also known as Rashid al Malik, 43, is not in U.S. custody. According to court documents, al Malik, the head of Dubai-based private investment firm

Hayah Holdings, fled the country in 2018, three days after being interviewed by FBI agents.

Prosecutors say the defendants **used Barrack's status** as an adviser to the Trump campaign and senior U.S. government officials, as well as chairman of Trump's inaugural committee, to advance UAE's interests and provide intelligence to the country's leaders but failed to provide the requisite notice to the U.S. attorney general that they were acting at the direction of UAE officials.

Emirati officials also tasked Barrack, Grimes and al Malik with influencing public opinion, obtaining foreign policy intelligence from the campaign and the government, developing a back channel to the Trump campaign and administration, and working to increase the UAE's influence and promote its foreign policy positions, according to the indictment.

The government is represented by Nathan Reilly, Ryan Harris, Samuel Nitze and Hiral Mehta of the U.S. Attorney's office for the Eastern District of New York and Matthew McKenzie of the Justice Department's Counterintelligence and Export Control Section.

Barrack is represented by Matthew Herrington and Ronak Desai of Paul Hastings LLP. Grimes is represented by Michael G. Freedman of the Freedman Firm.

The case is U.S. v. Rashid Sultan Rashid al Malik Alshahhi et al., case number 1:21-cr-0037, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

--Editing by Gemma Horowitz.

All Content © 2003-2023, Portfolio Media, Inc.