



High-end handbag creator sentenced for illegal wildlife trafficking and using endangered animals for products

Description

A prominent luxury handbag designer has been sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to smuggling purses made from protected caiman and python species, as reported by the U.S. Department of Justice. Nancy Teresa Gonzalez de Barberi, the founder of the luxury handbag company Gzuniga, received an 18-month prison sentence for illegally importing merchandise from Colombia to the United States, which was crafted from endangered wildlife. Her associate, Mauricio Giraldo, also faced legal consequences.

Both Gonzalez and Giraldo were ordered to forfeit all seized handbags and products, banned from wildlife commercial activities for three years, and placed on probation. Gonzalez received 18 months in prison, while Giraldo served time equivalent to approximately 22 months and faced additional penalties.

Another co-conspirator, John Camilo Aguilar Jaramillo, pleaded guilty earlier and awaits sentencing. The trio, all Colombian citizens, were extradited to the U.S. for prosecution.

The handbags made by Gzuniga using caiman and python skins fall under the protection of CITES regulations. Trafficking in these species is strictly monitored under international agreements, with the U.S. Justice Department emphasizing the importance of combating illegal smuggling.

The indictments charged Gzuniga, Gonzalez, Giraldo, and Jaramillo with conspiracy and smuggling offenses spanning from 2016 to 2019. The case highlights the commitment of authorities, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to combat wildlife trafficking and hold accountable those who violate laws protecting endangered species.

The investigation revealed a complex smuggling network involving couriers transporting undeclared, high-priced handbags made from protected reptile skins. The U.S. government, in collaboration with international partners, is determined to uphold regulations safeguarding wildlife from exploitation for profit.

Vocabulary List:

1. **smuggling** // (noun): The illegal transportation of goods.
2. **forfeit** // (verb): To lose or give up something.
3. **extradited** // (verb): Handed over to the legal jurisdiction of another country.
4. **indictments** // (noun): Formal charges or accusations of a crime.
5. **trafficking** // (noun): The illegal trade or dealing of goods.
6. **indictments** // (noun): Formal charges or accusations of a crime.



Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What illegal activity involves the secret transportation of goods or people?
Option: Trafficking
Option: Allegations
Option: Smuggling
Option: Compliance
2. What term refers to giving up something as a penalty for a wrongdoing?
Option: Abuse
Option: Vulnerable
Option: Emphasize
Option: Forfeit
3. Which term describes something causing public disagreement or argument?
Option: Dismissed
Option: Controversial
Option: Premiered
Option: Inspiration
4. Which word is used to describe something fascinating or mysterious?
Option: Expressed
Option: Dismissed
Option: Intrigue
Option: Dismissed
5. What term means to decide not to think about or consider something?
Option: Accuse
Option: Dismissed
Option: Sensation
Option: Forfeit
6. What term describes a person with an intense dislike or prejudice against transgender people?
Option: Transphobic
Option: Forfeit
Option: Redaction
Option: Smuggling
7. What verb means to charge someone with an offense or crime?



- Option: Compliance
- Option: Accuse
- Option: Allegations
- Option: Collaboration

8. Which term refers to an event or situation that causes excitement or interest?

- Option: Sensation
- Option: Intrigue
- Option: Dismissed
- Option: Collaboration

9. What word describes the action of working together with someone to produce something?

- Option: Vulnerable
- Option: Abuse
- Option: Collaboration
- Option: Dismissed

10. Which term indicates being susceptible to physical or emotional harm?

- Option: Abuse
- Option: Vulnerable
- Option: Compliance
- Option: Controversy

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The suspects in the fraud case faced multiple _____ for their alleged crimes.
12. It is essential for businesses to adhere to industry regulations to ensure _____ with the law.
13. The team was _____ with their performance in the championship game.
14. She _____ her concerns about the proposed changes during the meeting.
15. The rumors and _____ about the company's future caused uncertainty among investors.
16. The therapist showed _____ understanding towards the patient creating a trusting



environment.

17. The highly anticipated movie _____ to critical acclaim last night.
18. The doctor's calm demeanor and explanations were _____ to the nervous patient.
19. The high-profile celebrity denied the _____ of assault made against him.
20. The artist found _____ in the beauty of nature for his latest masterpiece.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

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| 21. The authorities cracked down on human rings operating in the region. |
| 22. Sensitive information was subject to before the document could be released to the public. |
| 23. During the presentation the speaker aimed to the importance of data security. |
| 24. The CEO gave a interview about the company's future plans. |
| 25. After a lengthy trial the defendant was of all charges. |
| 26. Children enjoyed riding on the colorful at the amusement park. |
| 27. The company established new policies to ensure with environmental regulations. |
| 28. Her sly remarks carried a subtle of dishonesty. |
| 29. The counselor showed a deep and understanding of the trauma the patient experienced. |
| 30. The investigation uncovered a complex criminal involving government officials. |

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Smuggling 2. Forfeit 3. Controversial 4. Intrigue 5. Dismissed 6. Transphobic 7. Accuse
8. Sensation 9. Collaboration 10. Vulnerable

Gap-Fill: 11. indictments 12. compliance 13. disappointed 14. expressed 15. speculation 16. empathic
17. premiered 18. reassuring 19. allegations 20. inspiration

Matching sentence: 1. trafficking 2. redaction 3. emphasize 4. candid 5. acquitted 6. carousel 7. compliance
8. insinuation 9. empathetic 10. conspiracy



CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL6

Date Created

2024/04/23

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