



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2017

CHARGES FILED AGAINST PAVEL TVERETINOV AND VITALIY YEROSHENKO RELATED TO BEEHIVE THEFTS

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office has filed a Felony Criminal Complaint against Pavel Mihauloviz Tveretinov (51, of Sacramento) and Vitaliy Yeroshenko (48, of Antelope) in relation to a series of beehive thefts that occurred throughout the Central Valley.

On April 28, Fresno and Madera County Sheriff's Ag Task Force Detectives found Mr. Tveretinov tending to more than 100 stolen beehives in an orchard near Central and Temperance Avenues in Fresno. After an investigation, it was discovered that both Mr. Tveretinov and Mr. Yeroshenko were in possession of over 1,200 beehives that had been stolen from 10 different beekeepers over an approximate 2 year timespan. The value of the recovered beehives is estimated to be over \$200,000.

Mr. Tveretinov and Mr. Yeroshenko have both been charged with nine (9) felony counts of Receiving Stolen Property [Penal Code § 496(a)], one (1) misdemeanor count of Receiving Stolen Property [Penal Code § 496(a)], as well as an allegation that the value of the property exceeded \$200,000 [Penal Code § 12022.6(a)(2)].

If convicted of the charges, the defendants face a sentence of up to ten (10) years and four (4) months in custody at the Fresno County Jail.

Mr. Tveretinov was arraigned on June 22, 2017, and was remanded into the custody of the Fresno County Sheriff. His next scheduled court date is August 29, 2017.

A warrant of arrest is currently outstanding for Mr. Yeroshenko. He is scheduled to be arraigned on July 10, 2017, in Department 30 of the Fresno County Superior Court.

This case is being prosecuted by the Office's Rural Crimes Unit.

The Media may email FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us or contact Administrative Assistant Geri Benavides at (559) 600-4441 with questions.

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