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SVETLANA TRAVIS ZAKHAROVA INDICTED FOR EXTORTING PAYMENTS FROM ELIOT SPITZER TO KEEP SILENT ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a woman has been indicted on multiple counts of Grand Larceny and Forgery for extorting over \$50,000 from one man so she would not reveal their relationship, and using another man's personal information to rent apartments without his knowledge.

District Attorney Clark said "This defendant allegedly enriched herself by a pattern of thievery and deception. These crimes will not be tolerated."

District Attorney Clark said that the defendant, Svetlana Travis Zakharova, 26, a Russian national, was indicted on second- and third-degree Grand Larceny, third- and fourth-degree Attempted Grand Larceny, four counts of second-degree Forgery, four counts of third-degree Forgery, four counts of second-degree Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument, and four counts of second-degree Falsifying Business Records.

Zakharova was arraigned on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 before Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Charles Solomon. Bail was continued at \$1 million and she is due back in court on December 6, 2016. Zakharova faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted on the top charge. District Attorney Clark's office is handling the case after Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. recused himself.

District Attorney Clark said that according to the investigation, sometime between March 12, 2014 and her arrest on October 11, 2016, Zakharova allegedly obtained nearly

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\$400,000 from Eliot Spitzer by threatening to reveal her personal relationship with him, and to expose intimate details to the media and Spitzer's wife and family if he did not pay.

District Attorney Clark said that according to the investigation, sometime between April 1, 2014 and July 1, 2014, Zakharova allegedly attempted to extort \$5,000 from a second man by threatening to expose their relationship, and allegedly used his information and forged his signature to lease apartments without his knowledge.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Thomas Boyle of the Criminal Enterprise Bureau, under the supervision of Stuart Levy, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division and Jean T. Walsh, Chief of the Investigations Division.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.

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