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Convicted Conwoman Faces 64 New Charges in Immigration Services Scam

A Montebello woman accused of defrauding dozens of victims seeking immigration services was charged today with 64 additional felony counts, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Romina Aida Zadorian (dob 10/6/69) now faces a total of 112 felony counts, including 91 counts of grand theft of personal property of a value exceeding \$950, with an allegation of taking property with a value exceeding \$500,000, according to the amended complaint.

The charges in case BA461524 also include counts of first-degree residential burglary, false government documents activity, criminal threats, extortion, dissuading a witness from reporting a crime, forgery relating to an item exceeding \$950 in value and petty theft with three priors.

Zadorian was arraigned on the new charges today and pleaded not guilty to all counts. Her next scheduled court appearance is a preliminary hearing setting July 2 in Department 50 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Deputy District Attorney Leonard Torrealba of the Consumer Protection Division said that after the initial charges were announced in October, 49 new victims were identified through the District Attorney's Office's hotline. That brings the total number of alleged victims to 82 and the amount Zadorian allegedly stole from \$223,500 to \$630,817.

Zadorian is charged with running a fraudulent immigration services business at her Montebello residence between Sept. 7, 2014, and Oct. 25, 2017. She is accused of falsely promising to expedite the processing of visas, resident alien cards and citizenship petitions for the victims and their families.

The defendant allegedly told victims she worked for the government and had special government connections. She also allegedly told some of the victims she was an attorney.

Prosecutors said Zadorian pretended to provide services by filing inapplicable immigration forms with immigration authorities. She allegedly collected payments from victims but did not provide the promised services.

According to the criminal complaint, Zadorian was convicted in 2009 of various counts of grand theft in Los Angeles County in case BA339360.

Zadorian faces up to 60 years in state prison if convicted as charged in the current case. Bail remained at \$1.2 million.

The case remains under investigation by the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation.

Anyone who believes they may have been a victim may call the District Attorney's Consumer Protection Division at (213) 257-2465.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.