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No. 02-1263

Status:

PENDING

Title:

Leo Wanta, Somalia Ambassador to Canada and Switzerland, aka

Lee E. Wanta, aka Lco E. Wanta, Petitioner

v.

Richard G. Chandler, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of

Revenue, et al.

Docketed:

Lower Ct: United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

February 27, 2003

(02-1544)

--- Date-------Feb 24 2003 ----Proceedings and Orders-----

Petition for writ of certiorari filed. (Response due March 29, 2003)

~-Name-----

-----Address-----

--Phone---

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Party name: Leo Wanta

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Washington, DC 20530

Party name: John D. Ashcroft, Attorney General, et al.

Supreme Court of the United States

AMBASSADOR LEO WANTA, SOMALIA AMBASSADOR TO CANADA AND SWITZERLAND, ddp#-04362 & 12535, aka LEE E. WANTA, aka LEO E. WANTA,

Petitioner,

ν.

SECRETARY RICHARD G. CHANDLER, WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; et al.,

Respondents,

On PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

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The State of Wisconsin, Dane County Circuit Court; the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin and the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit have effectively circumvented international relations policy directives of the United States Department of State by inappropriately asserting and/or sanctioning "in personam" jurisdiction over Petitioner in contravention of Article 29 and Article 40 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 23 U.S.T. 3227 and 22 United States Code Section 254(d) which Treaty and United States Code reference confer inviolability and immunity from jurisdiction on the Petitioner "in the first instance".

PARTIES TO THE PROCEEDING

The following listed parties are additional party Respondents:

JAMES E. DOYLE, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

JOHN DOUGLAS HAAG, FORMER ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

GRANT C. JOHNSON, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

JACK C. VOIGHT, WISCONSIN STATE TREASURER

JUDITH COLEMAN, CLERK OF THE DANE COUNTY CIRCUIT
COURT, STATE OF WISCONSIN

ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN ASHCROFT, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PAUL H. O'NEILL, SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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OPINIONS AND JUDGMENT BELOW

The Order of the Court of Appeals (Pet. App. 1a) is not reported. The Judgment of the District Court (Pet. App. 2a) is not reported.

STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION

The final Order of the Court of Appeals was issued on November 25, 2002. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1254(1).

PRIMARY STATUTE AND TREATY INVOLVED

22 U.S.C. §§ 254, et seq. and the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 23 U.S.T. 3227 provide in part as follows:

a. 22 U.S.C. § 254(d) provides:

Any action or proceeding brought against an individual who is entitled to immunity with respect to such action or proceeding under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, under section 254(b) or 254(c) of this Title, or under any other laws extending diplomatic privileges and immunities, shall be dismissed. Such immunity may be established upon motion or suggestion by or on behalf of the individual, or as otherwise permitted by applicable rules of procedure.

b. Article 29 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations provides:

The person of a diplomatic agent shall be inviolable. He shall not be liable to any form of arrest or detention.

The receiving State shall treat him with due respect and shall take all appropriate steps to prevent any attack on his person, freedom or dignity.

c. Article 40 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations provides in part:

If a diplomatic agent passes through or is in the territory of a third State, which has granted him a passport visa if such visa is necessary, while proceeding to take up or return to his post, or when returning to his own country, the third state shall accord him inviolability and such other immunities as may be required to ensure his transit or return.

There are other references to regulations and statutes in this petition. The ones mentioned above are the primary references for consideration in evaluating the merits of this petition.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND STATEMENT OF THE CASE

22 U.S.C. § 254(d) in part states: "Such immunity may be established upon motion or suggestion by or on behalf of the individual, or as otherwise permitted by applicable rules of procedure". The "or" portions of the United States Code section cited are highlighted to bring particular attention to language that provides for alternatives rather than mandatory requirements. The "Historical Background Statement of the Case" clearly demonstrates that Petitioner was not lax in making a demonstration in compliance with 22 U.S.C. § 254(d) both by means of suggestion (on multiple instances) and motion.

The cited portion of Article 40 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations defines conditions of immunity for Diplomatic persons in transit through a third State that is neither the home State nor the State where the Diplomatic position is nominated. The "Historical Background Statement of the Case" clearly demonstrates that Petitioner was not lax in making a demonstration in compliance with the cited portions of Article 40.

The United States Department of State issues policy and procedure directives to law enforcement administrators to be used in dealing with Diplomatic Missions in possession of Diplomatic Passports. Clearly the actions and inactions of the judicial system in the State of Wisconsin, the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin and the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit have made findings and rulings that negate both the policy statements issued by the United States Department of State

and the true intent and clear language interpretation of the referenced United States Code and International Treaty references.

In April 1993, while a domiciled resident of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Petitioner received Somalia Government communications from Haji Mohamed Hashi Haile, the President of Somalia, appointing Petitioner as Ambassador from Somalia to Canada. On or about April 29, 1993, the Somalia Ambassador to Great Britain, A.M. Musse sent a letter to the Foreign Ministry of Canada to inform the Government of Canada that Petitioner would become the official representative of Somalia Affairs in Canada starting from April 1993.

In June 1993 Petitioner departed from Toronto, Ontario, Canada to Europe. Prior to leaving Toronto Petitioner retained services of a Canadian Barrister to assist in establishing Canadian Somalia diplomatic residence and Canadian Somalia diplomatic offices. Petitioner's airplane ticket for this trip was a round trip ticket providing a return flight to Canada upon completion of European business. In June 1993 Petitioner met with Haji Mohamed Hashi Haile, the President of Somalia, in Paris France when they formalized the investiture of Petitioner as Ambassador to Canada from Somalia; obtained official Somalia Government "stamped and sealed" documentation for the investiture of Petitioner and finalized documentation with the President of Somalia that Petitioner became authorized representative, for and on behalf of the Somalia Democratic Republic and the Somalia Central Bank at the UBS Bank in Switzerland.

Upon completion of European business Petitioner was to immediately return to Canada and present officially stamped, sealed and approved Somalia Government documents to appropriate Canadian Government officials to enable Petitioner to "take up his Diplomatic post".

Upon leaving France Petitioner entered Switzerland. When entering Switzerland Petitioner presented Petitioner's Somalia Diplomatic Passports No: 04362 and 12535 for purpose of identification to Switzerland immigration/customs officials.

On or about July 7, 1993 Petitioner was taken into custody by Switzerland law enforcement officials and verbally advised that he was being held by Switzerland authorities on the verbal request of the State of Wisconsin, United States of America. Petitioner continually and throughout the time of Swiss confinement requested Swiss authorities to confirm under what authority Petitioner was being held. Swiss authorities continually advised Petitioner that the State of Wisconsin (USA) had advised verbally that official paperwork for arrest and extradition was forthcoming.

On or about October 8, 1993 Petitioner was advised by Swiss authorities that Petitioner was being held on United States Government charges arising out of a case filed in the United States District Court in the Western District of Wisconsin under Case No: 93-0033M-X-01. Although verbally advised of charges Petitioner was never brought before Swiss judicial authorities and presented with requests for extradition or afforded any rights of a foreign guest held in a third State as required by International law.

On or about November 17, 1993 Petitioner was removed from the Swiss prison and advised that he was being extradited to the United States. The action to transport Petitioner was conducted by Swiss authorities without legal due process. The only response given Petitioner, when he inquired as to where he was being sent and under what authority, was a Swiss authority response "that Petitioner was being sent back to America to face failure to pay tax assessment charges filed by the State of Wisconsin, United States of America". The Swiss advised Petitioner than when they were first advised to hold Petitioner they were told it was for a "multi billion dollar" tax fraud. When the Swiss decided to remove Petitioner from Switzerland they had learned the billion-dollar criminal tax case had become a few thousand-dollar criminal tax case.

Petitioner was transported on a Swiss Air carrier from Switzerland to the United States on November 17, 1993. When completing United States of America Immigration and Customs formalities, Petitioner presented the standard Customs Declaration form. On the Customs Declaration form Petitioner represented himself as a United States of America citizen with residence in Toronto, Ontario, Canada and specifically noted the word "Diplomat". After clearing United States immigration/customs formalities Petitioner was arrested by special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"). Petitioner advised the arresting FBI agents when entering the United States of America that he was the Somalia Ambassador to Canada and that he was carrying "official" documents in an investiture/diplomatic capacity and in a Diplomatic Pouch. The FBI agents seized the Diplomatic Passports, (used for official identification purposes for entry into the United States), from the possession of Petitioner (the subject Diplomatic Passports having been given back to Petitioner by United States immigration officials when authority to enter was granted) at the time of Petitioner's arrest.

In the presence of Petitioner, in a room within the New York arriving airport, Petitioner observed FBl agents and others whose identity is unknown to Petitioner, reviewing official Diplomatic documents and the contents of Petitioner's Diplomatic (briefcase) Pouch. The Diplomatic Pouch was clearly marked Diplomatic Pouch. Petitioner observed parties reviewing contents of Petitioner's Diplomatic Pouch and Diplomatic Passports and examining the Somali Government documents under seal certifying Petitioner's official investiture by Somalia President Haji Mohammed Haile Hashi.

Petitioner's Somali Diplomatic Passports contained a United States Government Consulate issued "Identification Card" issued pursuant to 22 C.F.R. 53.2(g) identifying Petitioner as a United States Citizen traveling under foreign issued Diplomatic Passports. This Identification Card was placed in the Diplomatic Passports and signed in the name of "Ambassador Leo E. Wanta". The combination of the Diplomatic Passports and the Identification Card legally facilitated the entrance of Petitioner into the United States. This entrance "Identification Card" was issued by the United States Consulate in Switzerland. Petitioner is a United States citizen that requested admittance into the United States not based on a United States passport but based on Diplomatic passports of a foreign nation and a duly registered "Foreign Agent".

Transcript of proceedings held on November 17, 1993 before the United States District Court in the Eastern District of New York in the case of United States of America v. Leo Emil Wanta under case number 93 M 2072 clearly reflect that the Somalia Diplomatic Passports and Diplomatic Pouch items taken from Petitioner at or immediately after Petitioner

cleared immigration formalities are in the possession of some agency, branch, court and/or other entity under United States jurisdiction.

Following dismissal of 93 M 2072 (referenced immediately above) Pctitioner is advised that he will not be released and is being held on the verbal request of law enforcement officials from the State of Wisconsin (USA). Between November 17, 1993 and the middle of December 1993 Petitioner is held by local police authorities in the State of New York (USA) without receiving any documents and/ or served with any arrest warrants concerning any pending charges by the State of Wisconsin (USA). Petitioner continually claimed Diplomatic Immunity to New York detention facility personnel and asserted there was no jurisdiction to hold him. Petitioner had no paperwork, documents or personal identification (since all was seized at the time of his arrest). The seizure of documents and other items at the time of Petitioners arrest left Petitioner without even minimal evidence of documentation to prove even his name. New York detention facility personnel advised Petitioner that he would have to wait until transfer to the State of Wisconsin (USA) to raise his objections to jurisdiction based on Diplomatic Immunity.

On or about December 13, 1993 Petitioner is taken from the jail holding facility in the State of New York (USA) and turned over to county law enforcement officers from the State of Wisconsin (USA) and immediately air transported from the State of New York (USA) to the State of Wisconsin (USA). Between November 17, 1993 and December 13, 1993 Petitioner is not brought before any Court, presented with any warrants for extradition to the State of Wisconsin or allowed consultation with a private attorney. Petitioner's initial appearance before a judicial officer in the State of Wisconsin occurred on December 14, 1993. The transcripts of this proceeding reflect that the prosecuting attorney representing the State of Wisconsin is aware that Petitioner claimed legal residence in Toronto, Canada and is clearly aware of the "suggestion" of Diplomatic Immunity. The prosecutor questions verification of diplomatic status in the referenced initial appearance transcript. The transcripts of this initial appearance hearing further reflect that Petitioner makes reference to the Diplomatic Passports and other official records taken into possession by the FBI as part of the seizure of Petitioner's Diplomatic (briefcase) Pouch at the time of Petitioner's arrest in New York on November 17, 1993.

Petitioner' assertions and claims of Diplomatic Immunity was the represented basis made by the State of Wisconsin for the State of Wisconsin questioning the "competency" of Petitioner to assist in his legal defense. The reference to "competency" first came at the initial appearance of the Petitioner on December 14, 1993. For the entirety of the year 1994 and part of the year 1995 there are several court hearings on the issue of competency. Petitioner continually asserts he is competent and the evaluating physicians from the institutions where he was confined concluded that Petitioner was totally competent. The examining physicians not only determined that Petitioner was competent they further determined that Petitioner was not suffering from a mental condition of "delusion". The claim by the Dane County Circuit Court and the State of Wisconsin that Petitioner's continual, repetitious, assertive and ongoing claim regarding Petitioner's Ambassadorship Diplomatic status and his assertion of the lack of State of Wisconsin Jurisdiction was evidence in the opinion of the court and the State of Wisconsin that Petitioner suffered from "Delusion".

The transcript of a hearing held in the State of Wisconsin Dane County Circuit Court on February 3, 1995 contains an admission by Mr. Haag (State of Wisconsin prosecutor) and Mr. Chavez (an attorney purportedly having authority to represent the Petitioner) of the existence of the Diplomatic (briefcase) Pouch and the originals of the Somalia Diplomatic Passports and other relevant "Official Diplomatic Documents" and that the same were at least reviewed and seen by Mr. Chavez and Mr. Haag as part of evidence documents being held by the State of Wisconsin (USA).

At virtually every court hearing, at a trial of Petitioner and at all post-trial proceedings Petitioner continually raised the issue of his continuing Diplomatic Immunity and as a result the Petitioner continually asserted the lack of any competent jurisdiction by the State of Wisconsin (USA) over the Petitioner. During one appearance before the presiding county court judge the judge commented in summary "that the Petitioner could not be an Ambassador from Somalia because Petitioner was not black".

On January 15, 1998 Petitioner made a court filing setting forth the issue of Diplomatic Immunity and the Diplomatic status of Petitioner with the Country of Somalia. The documents attached to this filing were only copies since the originals had not been seen by the Petitioner since he was taken into custody in New York in November of 1993. The trial court denied the prayer for relief requested. The county court did not find that Petitioner was not an Ambassador to Canada from Somalia. In making the ruling the county court judge makes certain references, in summary, that the Diplomatic passports are only copies and appear to be generic since no name can be read on the copies. The county court further references certain other official

documents such as official papers of the Somalia Government. The county court judge questions the authenticity and validity of the official Somalia Government documents since these documents are also copies. The county court should have been knowledgeable of the location of the originals because they had been acknowledged as being viewed by the Prosecutor and the purported attorney for the Petitioner during the February 3, 1995 hearing before the same county court judge.

Reading the referenced transcripts demonstrates that the county court presiding judge, the prosecutor and the State of Wisconsin jointly and severally were fully aware that the originals of the official documents, which copies the county court stated were illegible or unauthenticated photocopies, (including the original Diplomatic Passports) were in the possession of either the county court clerk and/or some other arm of the State of Wisconsin (USA). The State of Wisconsin was fully apprised of the hearing held in the United States District Court in New York in November of 1993 and that the original Diplomatic passports were in the possession of the presiding United States District Court Judge.

The Diplomatic Passports of Petitioner contained the "Identification Card" signed in the name of Ambassador Leo E. Wanta for travel to the United States by Petitioner, and were issued by the United States Consulate in Switzerland. The originals contained the "Identification Card" and the stamp of the date of official entry into the United States by Petitioner. The permission to enter without confiscating the Diplomatic Passports is an acknowledgment by Immigration and Customs clearing authorities as to the validity of the "documents" presented in granting permission to a United States citizen offering foreign Diplomatic Passports as entry documents. The evidence of the