

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
FORT WORTH DIVISION**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND
EXCHANGE COMMISSION,**

Plaintiff,

v.

**THE HEARTLAND GROUP
VENTURES, LLC, *et al.*,**

Defendants.

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Civil Action No. 4:21-cv-01310-O-BP

ORDER

Before the Court is the Motion to Lift Travel Restrictions as to Defendant Roger Sahota (“Motion”) (ECF No. 211); Plaintiff’s Response in Opposition (ECF No. 220); and Sahota’s reply (ECF No. 225). After considering the Motion, briefs, and applicable legal authorities, the Court **DENIES** the Motion.

I. BACKGROUND

This is a civil enforcement action brought by Plaintiff United States Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) against several Defendants and Relief Defendants, including Defendant-Movant Manjit Singh “Roger” Sahota. *See* ECF No. 1. The Motion is non-dispositive and thus before the undersigned for determination under Judge O’Connor’s referral order. *See* ECF No. 165.

On December 1, 2021, and upon the SEC’s emergency motion, the Court entered its Order for Temporary Restraining Order and Other Emergency Relief (the “Order”). ECF No. 12. At issue here is Section VII of the Order, which provides:

VII. WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS AND SURRENDER OF PASSPORT

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B. Defendant Manjit Singh “Roger” Sahota is prohibited from traveling outside the United States unless and until this Court finds that he, as well as any and all Defendants and Relief Defendants over which he maintains or maintained or exercised or exercises control, has fully complied with the provisions of this Order.

ECF No. 12 at 9. Sahota, who is *pro se*, would like the Court to lift its travel restrictions so he can visit Canada, where he has “potential business opportunities that [he] would like to explore.” ECF No. 211 at 2. Pointing back to the Order, the SEC contends Sahota has not complied with Section VII, and so he should not be allowed unrestricted travel. ECF No. 220 at 2.

II. ANALYSIS

As the SEC observes, Section VII remains in effect. *Id.* at 1-2 (quoting ECF No. 12 at 16). Sahota says he has “substantially complied” with Section VII. ECF No. 211 at 2. But Section VII requires full compliance, not just substantial compliance, before Sahota may be entitled to unrestricted travel. ECF No. 12 at 9. And Section VII requires such compliance not just from Sahota, but also from “any and all Defendants and Relief Defendants over which he maintains or maintained or exercised or exercises control.” *Id.* It is unclear whether Sahota considers the compliance of such other Defendants or Relief Defendants. *See* ECF No. 211. Even so, Sahota’s individual compliance is disputed.

The SEC submits in its Response—supported by declaration made under penalty of perjury—that Sahota has not complied with the Order in at least three meaningful respects. *See* ECF No. 220 at 2-4; *see also* ECF No. 220-1 (“Declaration of Rebecca Hollenbeck”) [hereinafter Hollenbeck Decl.]. First, Sahota has not transferred to the Court-appointed Receiver title to two properties located in the Bahamas. ECF No. 220 at 3. Second, he likewise has not transferred title to at least one vehicle, namely a 2014 Ford F-250 Super Duty 4x4 Extended Cab Pickup. *Id.* at 3;

see Hollenbeck Decl. ¶ 10. Third, he has not provided the Receiver with a “password” or “Bitlocker Recovery Key” needed to access four tablets or laptops the Receiver obtained from Sahota’s Eldorado ranch and San Angelo residence. ECF No. 220 at 4. If Sahota satisfies these three items, then the SEC “will support lifting the travel restrictions.” *Id.* at 3.

In reply, Sahota first insists he does not own any assets in the Bahamas. ECF No. 225 at 2. But he does not make this statement under penalty of perjury. *See id.* Nor does he explain the transactions documented in the Hollenbeck declaration, which indicate Sahota or his entities in fact purchased Bahamas properties. Hollenbeck Decl. ¶ 9.

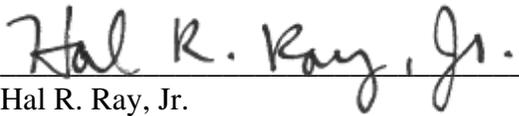
As to the second and third items, Sahota suggests the “Receiver has possession of all titles” to vehicles the Receiver seeks, because the titles were included with documents the Receiver obtained from Sahota’s Graham office and Eldorado ranch. ECF No. 225 at 2. He adds that he “does not know what [h]is Bitlocker Recovery Key is.” *Id.* Again, Sahota does not make these statements under penalty of perjury. *See id.* Even accepting the statements as true, it appears Sahota could still assist the SEC with items two and three. For example, he might help the SEC locate the titles amidst the documents he references. And it seems he could help obtain a new Bitlocker Recovery Key or password for the laptops or tablets; indeed, Sahota may be the only one able to obtain a new Key or password for these devices.

III. CONCLUSION

The Court thus **DENIES** the Motion (ECF No. 211). This does not preclude Sahota from working with the SEC to resolve the three items discussed above, in which case the SEC represents it would no longer oppose Sahota’s requested relief. ECF No. 220 at 3-4. Finally, the Court notes Sahota’s additional requests for relief made in his reply to the SEC’s Response. *See* ECF No. 225 at 4. The Court will not, however, consider them in this form. *See Romanowski v. Wells Fargo*

Bank, N.A., No. 3:18-cv-1567-D, 2022 WL 581813, at *1 n.1 (N.D. Tex. Feb. 24, 2022) (“In his reply brief, [Movant] requests additional relief. Because these requests are made for the first time in his reply brief and are inadequately briefed, the court declines to address them.”).

It is so **ORDERED** on July 27, 2022.



Hal R. Ray, Jr.
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE