

United States v. Masphal Kry
Information Provided by PETA

WHAT: On March 11, 2024, Masphal Kry, a Cambodian national and deputy director of the Department of Wildlife and Biodiversity for the Cambodian Forestry Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, will go on trial in Miami. He was arrested on November 12, 2022, at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York as he transited through the U.S. and was indicted by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) on charges related to monkey laundering. The indictment revealed that his arrest was tied to a [five-year investigation by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) into the movement of endangered monkeys between Cambodia and the U.S. The indicted parties included Kry, another Cambodian government official, and the owner and five senior staff members of Vanny Bio-research (Cambodia) Corporation Ltd., a monkey farm. According to the indictment, the co-conspirators knowingly arranged for the capture, purchase, and resale of endangered monkeys who had been taken from their forest homes in Cambodia and sold them to U.S. monkey importers as captive-bred, felony violations of both the Lacey and Endangered Species acts.

In May 2023, Kry’s attorneys attempted to suppress evidence that was collected during the investigation. [The videos introduced during the suppression hearing in the case](#), which were filmed by the U.S. government’s confidential informant in Cambodia, offer a glimpse of what the industry has so desperately tried to obscure. In them, Kry is heard saying, “Do more business . . . [You will] make more money . . . if you make another road . . . for your smuggling” and the apparently wild-caught monkeys, smuggled through back roads and crammed into cages wedged into Kry’s truck, are visible. Off screen, the sounds of monkeys crying in fear, anger, and despair can also be heard. Kry allegedly delivered these monkeys to a facility owned by Vanny Bio-research in Pursat, Cambodia.

WHO: Masphal Kry is represented by [Akin Gump Strauss, Hauer & Feld. The firm was hired for \\$720,000 a year by the Cambodian government in 2022 to improve its image with the U.S. government and to attract investments.](#)

The DOJ revealed that there were **two U.S.-based unindicted co-conspirators**. Based on evidence in DOJ’s complaint, filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and court documents concerning the monkey-smuggling ring, PETA believes that **Inotiv**, which owns two monkey facilities in Alice, Texas, and the Miami-based **Worldwide Primates** are the unindicted co-conspirators that allegedly aided the accused parties. Other primate importers, including [Charles River Laboratories](#), [Primate Products Inc.](#), and PreLabs are referenced among the thousands of pages of evidence that have been proffered by the government’s prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Watts-FitzGerald, and his team. Kurt Derfler, a founder of Safer Human Medicine, which is now [attempting](#) to set up the largest monkey-importing and breeding facility in the U.S. under a new company, is also referenced as the agent for Covance, which allegedly received monkeys from Cambodia.

WHEN: The trial of Kry (*United States v. Masphal Kry*) begins at 9 a.m. on March 11, 2024.

WHERE: C. Clyde Atkins U.S. Courthouse, 301 N. Miami Ave., Miami