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## KIDNAP CASE CRUMBLES

### Plot to nab Whitmer an FBI op from start to finish

By John Friend

The defense attorneys representing a group of five men farcically accused of engaging in a conspiracy to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D) in the lead-up to the 2020 presidential election filed a motion on Christmas Day to have all charges dismissed against their clients. At the heart of the motion to dismiss is the claim that the evidence in the case “demonstrates egregious overreaching by the government’s agents, and by the informants those agents handled,” according to the motion filed in the Southern Division of the Western District of Michigan. Defense attorneys and independent investigators have long alleged that the media-hyped plot to kidnap Gov. Whitmer was a setup from the beginning, as FBI agents and their informants were the primary drivers and instigators of the entirely manufactured conspiracy.

“The key to the government’s plan was to turn general discontent with Gov. Whitmer’s Covid-19 restrictions into a crime that could be prosecuted,” the motion states. “The government picked what it knew would be a sensational charge: conspiracy to kidnap the governor. When the government was faced with evidence showing



COURT ARTIST: JERRY LEMANU

From left, defendant Brandon Casserta, his lawyer, Michael Darragh Hills, along with defendants Adam Fox (center) and Ty Garbin attend a hearing at the Gerald R. Ford Federal Building in Grand Rapids, Mich. in October of last year. Many suspected something was amiss with the “plot” to kidnap Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, and they were right. Turns out more than half the “plotters” were FBI informants driving much of the kidnap scenario.

that the defendants had no interest in a kidnapping plot, it refused to accept failure and continued to push its plan. Eventually, the government initiated this case, despite the fact that it knew there was no plan to kidnap, no operational plan, and no details about how a kidnapping would occur or what would happen afterwards.”

The motion argues that no con-

spiracy whatsoever existed amongst the defendants. Alternatively, the attorneys representing the five defendants insist that the “defense can establish entrapment as a matter of law” due to the government’s overreach and misconduct, which included pursuing the manufactured plot despite the fact that defendants explicitly repudiated the kidnapping suggestion proffered by government informants directed by federal law enforcement agents.

Adam Fox, Barry Croft Jr., Kaleb Franks, Daniel Harris, and Brandon Caserta stand accused in the case. As more evidence of entrapment have come to light, along with serious misconduct and criminality on the

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