



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Director of Public Relations, 352-797-3609

Re: Inmate Charged with Solicitation to Commit Murder – 2024-03353

Date: April 29, 2024

On 07-28-23, Sheriff Al Nienhuis held a press conference regarding a Human Trafficking case detectives were investigating.

Please see press conference here –
https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=1486477498756705

The suspect in the case was identified as James Peter Houllis DOB/02-22-1967.

Houllis was arrested at that time and charged with numerous crimes, including, but not limited to, Sexual Battery, Kidnapping, and Human Trafficking. Houllis has been incarcerated at the Hernando County Detention Center since July 2023.

Detectives believe Houllis, who has changed his address 53 times since the 1980's, may have victimized other young women/teen girls in California, Colorado, and Florida (Miami, Hollywood, Hudson, Spring Hill).

In late January 2024, Hernando County Sheriff's detectives received information in regard to Houllis soliciting other inmates in the detention center to assist him by contacting someone "on the outside" to kill certain witnesses in this case.

Meeting with negative results for someone "on the outside" to fulfill his request, Houllis turned to various inmates, asking them to do it when they were released. Houllis offered ten to fifteen thousand dollars and his Mercedes Benz to have one of the witnesses killed.

Houllis went so far as to provide written documentation, including a map, to the inmates he solicited to kill the witness. The documentation included the witness's name, date of birth, physical description, work location, and the time the witness went to work.

When detectives interviewed Houllis, he denied asking any inmate to kill any witness, stating he was "only joking" and/or just making factual statements that if the witness disappeared, most of his case would "be done."

Houllis, still in custody at the Hernando County Detention Center, was charged with Solicitation to Commit Murder. He is still being held on no bond.

We ask anyone who believes they were victimized by Houllis, and/or knows someone who has, to please contact Detective William Harper at the HCSO – 352-754-6830.

Hernando County Crime Stoppers / Anonymous Tips

If you have information on this case, please contact Hernando County Crime Stoppers. You will remain anonymous!

Hernando County Crime Stoppers can be reached by phone at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or **TIPS from a cell phone.

You may also submit your tip via the internet at <http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com> .

You will remain anonymous and also be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000 cash!