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News

US National Charged with Defrauding Kenyan B Over \$1.2 Million in Fake Gold Deal

By **IB Reporter** December 16, 2024



A US national, Sergio Patrick Antonucci, has been charged in a Nairobi court with defrauding a Kenyan businessman of 1,271,200.74 US dollars in a fraudulent gold deal.

Appearing before Milimani Chief Magistrate Susan Situbi, Antonucci denied two criminal charges: conspiracy to obtain money by false pretenses.

The charges stem from an alleged scheme in which Antonucci, alongside others not before the court, falsely claimed to have secured 2,820 kilograms of gold to Cook.

According to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), the offenses took place between March and April 2020 in Nairobi, where Antonucci and his accomplices purportedly misled Cook into believing they could secure the gold deal, which was fraudulent.

The accused also faces a charge of obtaining 1,271,200.74 US dollars from Cook under the same false pretenses for 2,000 kilograms of gold.

After the charges were read, Antonucci's defense lawyer requested his release on bail, assuring the court comply with any conditions, including depositing his passport and refraining from interfering with prosecu

However, the prosecution opposed his release, arguing that Antonucci posed a flight risk as his permanen

In response, Magistrate Situbi granted Antonucci bail, setting the amount at 10 million shillings with a su