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Unknown author

## **Virzi, linked to purchase of spy equipment 'Pegasus'**

From an account linked to businessman Felipe Pipo Virzi, a check for \$ 1 million was issued to the Caribbean Holding Services company, linked to Aaron Ronny Mizrachi, brother-in-law of former President Ricardo Martinelli, for payment to the Israeli NSO Group for the purchase of the spy system Pegasus, the second the previous government bought for about \$ 8 million.

This transaction is part of the triangulation operation carried out by the past government to purchase the equipment, the details of which were given to La Prensa by sources linked to the investigation.



Felipe 'Pipo' Virzi



Julio Moltó



Gustavo Perez



Alejandro Garuz

**CERTIFICADO DE USO/USUARIO FINAL**

Número de formulario: 42-D Fecha de publicación: 16/01/2011 Página 1 de 2

- Nombre del proveedor israelí:  
NSO Group Technologies Ltd.
- País de destino final:  
Panamá
- Nombre del usuario final:  
Consejo de Seguridad Nacional
- Número de contrato/referencia de la Orden:  
2012.30
- Dirección del usuario final:  
Quarry Heights, Ancon, Edificio No. 88, Panamá, Rep. de Panamá.
- Propósito de uso final: recolección y recopilación de información de dispositivos móviles para el uso exclusivo del Gobierno de Panamá.

7. Nombre y descripción del artículo/producto	Cantidad de artículos
Sistema Pegasus	1
Blackberry	150 objetivos
Android	150 objetivos
Hardware	
Instalación	
Mantenimiento	
Entrenamiento	
Actualizaciones y mejoras (upgrades)	

*Certification of Ultimate end-user*

We certify that we are the end-user for the item/product listed in item 7, for the sole purpose of end use as specified in item 6. We undertake not to sell, deliver or otherwise transfer to any party under any conditions whatsoever, with or without consideration, temporarily or permanently, the items/products listed in item 7 or any part thereof, including any related equipment and/or spare parts delivered in connection with the after-sales support, documentation and operating manuals, without the prior written consent of the Government of Israel.

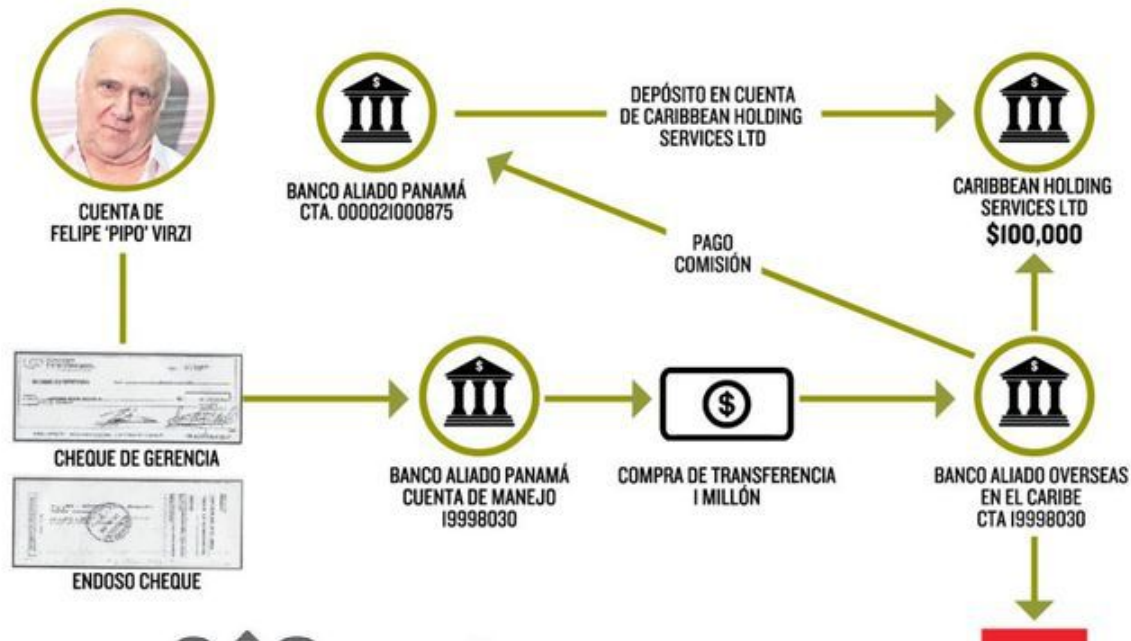
**Traducción**

Certificamos que somos los usuarios finales del producto listado en el punto 7. Para el único propósito de uso final, según especificado en el punto 6. Nos comprometemos a no vender, entregar, o de cualquier otra forma transferir a cualquier otra persona bajo ninguna circunstancia, con o sin consideración, temporal o permanentemente el producto listado en el punto 7 o cualquiera de sus partes, incluyendo cualquier equipo relacionado y/o partes relacionadas entregadas posteriormente como parte del servicio de mantenimiento, documentación, y manuales operativos sin la previa autorización por escrito del gobierno de Israel.



## The payment route to NSO Group

### TRIANGULACION PARA PAGAR POR MAQUINA PINCHADORA 'PEGASUS'



## The payment route to NSO Group

The investigations indicate that the account from which the money came to issue the check to Mizrachi's company, is the same one in which a transfer of \$ 5 million to Virzi by Hidalgo & Hidalgo was deposited at Banco Universal , in charge of the failed Tonosí irrigation project, which is the subject of a judicial investigation for alleged "bribery".

Meanwhile, documents on the purchase of Pegasus reveal that the procedures for its purchase began in January 2011, when Julio Moltó

The end-user certificate was signed by Moltó's successor in the Security Council, Gustavo Pérez, in July 2012. This media called Moltó on his cell phone, but he had a shutdown message.

The triangulation that was used for the first payment of \$ 1 million to NSO Group, for the acquisition of the second illegal wiretapping team in the Ricardo Martinelli government, left traces in the local and international banking system that reveal the connection of important Panamanian businessmen in the transaction.

The operation, according to data provided by sources linked to the investigation, reveals that from an account whose signer is the businessman and former Vice President of the Republic Felipe Pipo Virzi, a check for one million dollars was issued to Caribbean Holding Services, linked to Aaron Ronny Mizrachi , brother-in-law of ex-president Ricardo Martinelli, and who left the country last Wednesday after learning about the scandal (see illustration).

It should be noted that the account No. 2004010100002014, of Banco Universal, is the same in which the transfer of \$ 5 million to Virzi was deposited by the company Hidalgo & Hidalgo (H&H), in charge of the failed Tonosí irrigation project. Coincidentally, the Third Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office investigates the possible payment of bribes from H&H to several members of Martinelli's zero circle.

After the check issued to Caribbean Holding Services is endorsed to a management account at Banco Aliado de Panamá, through the purchase of a transfer, the money goes to a subsidiary of the Panamanian bank on a Caribbean island.

From there, a payment is made to the Banco Aliado for management commissions, and another payment of \$ 100,000 to Caribbean Holding Services as part of another commission by a private mediator, the sources explained.

After these transactions, the money transfer route goes to a Wells Fargo branch in the United States, and from there to Bank Hapoalim in Israel. In total, \$ 899 thousand 687 and 25 hundredths are deposited to NSO Group as the first payment for the sophisticated spy equipment.

During the Martinelli government, close to \$ 8 million was paid for the Pegasus pricking machine, whose purpose, according to the certificate of use, was "the collection and compilation of information on mobile devices for the exclusive use of the Government of Panama."

It consisted of a system of eavesdropping called Pegasus, with the capacity to filter 150 BlackBerry and the same amount of Android, but the specifications indicate that this amount could be up to five times higher.

The original contract with NSO Group with the Government was for \$ 6 million, but after the acquisition of new software an addendum was made, for \$ 2 million more.

Until now, investigations indicate that there is no record of any payment or financing by a State entity with NSO Group, despite the fact that the regulations indicate that this type of artifact is acquired from State to State.

The Pegasus system – whose last record of use dates from May 16, 2014 – is missing, as is the first eavesdropping machine that was purchased from the Israeli MLM Protection, for \$ 13.4 million with funds from the National Aid Program (PAN ).

In the coming days, a formal complaint will be filed with the Public Ministry for the alleged illegal transaction with which Pegasus is acquired and for his disappearance.

### **purchase timeline**

In January 2011, when Julio Moltó was the Executive Secretary of the Security Council, negotiations began for the purchase of this system as indicated in the Pegasus use certificate.

Moltó was head of the Security Council between July 2010 and March 2012, but it was not until July 2012, according to documentation available to this medium, that Gustavo Pérez, who had already relieved Moltó from his position, received Pegasus and signs the end-user certification of the system, as executive secretary of the Security Council.

This medium called Moltó, but his cell phone remained off.

Meanwhile, Alejandro Garuz, who succeeded Pérez in September 2012 as executive secretary of the Council, did not make any record of the pricking machine purchased from NSO Group as part of the state patrimony.



Pérez and Garuz have been detained since January 12, 2014 for the investigation related to the illegal wiretapping of more than 150 people, including the now president Juan Carlos Varela, journalists, trade unionists, political leaders and others.

The preliminary hearing for Garuz and Pérez in this case is scheduled for August 17, in which Ronny Rodríguez and William Pittí, former officials of the Security Council, and those who are fugitives, are also accused.

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