

## **Inmate: Mob captain hit list a set-up**

*[CITY Edition]*

Newsday - Long Island, N.Y.

Author: ANTHONY M. DESTEFANO. STAFF WRITER

Date: Jan 9, 2007

Start Page: A.18

Section: NEWS

Text Word Count: 416

### **Document Text**

A jail inmate in Manhattan has alleged that other prisoners concocted a scheme to falsely link reputed Bonanno crime family captain Vincent Basciano to a "hit" list targeting a judge and prosecutor, according to papers filed in Brooklyn federal court.

The inmate, identified in the papers as Danny Reyes, said two other inmates at the federal Metropolitan Correctional Center cooked up the plan to plant the false report about Basciano paying for murders by using jail commissary funds as a way of currying favor with the government.

Basciano, known as "Vinny Gorgeous," has been held in solitary confinement since July. By then, Brooklyn federal prosecutors reported they received information that Basciano, who is awaiting retrial on racketeering charges, came up with a list of five names that included federal judge Nicholas Garaufis, assistant U.S.

Attorney Greg Andres and three witnesses.

Federal prosecutors have stated in earlier court filings that the list was of people Basciano wanted killed. But defense attorney James Kousouros stated during a court hearing that the list was part of a Santeria ritual - a Caribbean religion - that Basciano was told he should perform to get good luck in his case.

Kousouros said the latest filing, done late Friday, is aimed at getting Basciano released from solitary. The papers add a new spin to an already Byzantine description of events.

The court papers state that Reyes reported that he and two other inmates ran a poker game at the correctional center in which certain selected inmates were allowed to play. One of the inmates running the game was paid with commissary items by those who lost at the table, according to the court papers.

It was during the poker game that another inmate told Basciano that he had a relative who could lift a spell from Basciano, the court papers stated.

Reyes added that two inmates planned to set up Basciano and another inmate named in the papers as Peter Lioumis with the hit list allegation, according to the court papers.

Reyes told defense attorneys that the two inmates tried to recruit him into the plot but that he refused, court papers said.

Reyes said that after he was sentenced in November on drug charges, he refused to cooperate with the two prosecutors trying to make a case against Basciano and Lioumis, according to court filings.

Dave Touger, the attorney for Lioumis, whose name is actually spelled Liounis, said his client said the alleged plot was "idiocy." Reyes' attorney couldn't be reached.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction or distribution is prohibited without permission.

### **Abstract (Document Summary)**

[Vincent Basciano], known as "Vinny Gorgeous," has been held in solitary confinement since July. By then, Brooklyn federal prosecutors reported they received information that Basciano, who is awaiting retrial on racketeering charges, came up with a list of five names that included federal judge Nicholas Garaufis, assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Andres and three witnesses.

Federal prosecutors have stated in earlier court filings that the list was of people Basciano wanted killed. But defense attorney James Kousouros stated during a court hearing that the list was part of a Santeria ritual - a Caribbean religion - that Basciano was told he should perform to get good luck in his case.

It was during the poker game that another inmate told Basciano that he had a relative who could lift a spell from Basciano, the court papers stated.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction or distribution is prohibited without permission.