



FBI seeking last of 14 fraud suspects, Hershber Hirsch

04/10/2001

By [Chris Mckenna](#)

GOSHEN: The FBI is still hunting for one of the 14 suspects charged last week in a series of multimillion-dollar frauds.

Federal authorities are hunting for a 23-year-old Rockland County man charged more than a week ago as one of 14 people involved in a series of multimillion-dollar fraud schemes.

Hershber Hirsch, whose last known address was in Monsey, remains the only suspect who has not been taken into custody since a 68-count indictment was unsealed on March 29.

Hirsch faces eight criminal counts, including charges of racketeering, mail fraud and filing false claims against the government.

The FBI's Hudson Valley office in Goshen released a photograph of Hirsch yesterday. He is described as 5 feet 8 inches tall, 165 pounds, with brown eyes and brown hair, a beard, mustache and glasses.

Anyone with information about his whereabouts is asked to call the FBI at 615-1700.

The 14 fraud suspects — 10 of whom are residents of the Orange County Village of Kiryas Joel — are implicated in a series of fraud schemes that bilked banks, the federal government and other victims out of at least \$4.5 million over five years since 1996.

Nine defendants — including the alleged ringleader, Mordechai Samet, 40, of Kiryas Joel — were arrested on March 29.

Since then, four other suspects have surrendered at the White Plains office of U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White.

All but three of the suspects who were arrested have been released on bail.

Still remaining in the Westchester County Jail are Samet; Chaim Hollender, 25, of Monsey; and Moses Weiss, 25, of Kiryas Joel. Samet and Weiss are being held in lieu of \$750,000 bail. Hollender's bail information was not available.

The 13 suspects who have been apprehended so far — each of whom has entered a not guilty plea — are scheduled to appear at a pretrial conference this morning before federal Judge Colleen McMahon in White Plains.

Samet is to appear before McMahon before or after the conference for a detention hearing, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20010410/NEWS/304109997&cid=sitesearch>