

Eight Charged in Detroit Stolen Car Ring That Shipped Luxury Vehicles to Middle East

Prosecutors say smugglers lied to customs officials, claiming containers held antifreeze and auto parts when they actually contained BMWs and Range Rovers

Terrill Davis had a tip for his alleged partner in a stolen car smuggling operation. He would check certain vehicles for Apple AirTags before accepting them, he told Haydar Al Haydari in March 2025, because other thieves might try to "steal 'em back."

That detail, buried in a 22-page federal indictment unsealed this month, captures the brazen nature of what prosecutors describe as a sophisticated criminal network operating out of Detroit.

The group stole high-end vehicles, packed them into shipping containers, and sent them to buyers in Iraq and the United Arab Emirates while lying to U.S. Customs and Border Protection about what was inside.

The Criminal Ring Was Charged With Shipping Cars

A federal grand jury in the Eastern District of Michigan has charged eight men with conspiracy and transporting stolen vehicles across state lines and international borders. The indictment describes a scheme that ran from July 2023 through August 2025 and involved stolen BMWs, Range Rovers, Dodge Durangos, Ford Broncos and other vehicles.

The defendants include six alleged smugglers and two alleged brokers who prosecutors say obtained stolen cars from networks of thieves and coordinated their delivery to the smugglers. According to the indictment, the smugglers operated out of four commercial and industrial lots scattered across the Detroit area.

When shipping containers arrived at the lots, the brokers would arrange for stolen vehicles to be delivered. The indictment says the smugglers timed the arrivals carefully to avoid stolen cars sitting in plain view for long periods.

They Lied About What Was In Shipping Containers

Once the cars were loaded, the smugglers allegedly contacted freight forwarding companies to arrange shipment to U.S. ports and then overseas. But they provided false information about what was inside the containers, prosecutors say.

In one instance in October 2023, defendant Karar Alnakash allegedly told a freight forwarder's employee that a shipping container comprised "22 pallets of antifreeze." The container actually held complete stolen motor vehicles, according to the indictment.

Similar lies were allegedly told by other defendants. Mohammed Al Hilo falsely confirmed that a container held auto parts in July 2023. Abbas Al Othman made the same false claim in October 2023. Mohammed Al Abboodi allegedly lied about container contents in December 2023.

The false statements mattered because freight forwarders must file shipping manifests with CBP declaring what items are being exported. Accurate manifests allow the government to verify that exported goods are legal under U.S. law. Prosecutors say the scheme obstructed that verification process.

The indictment names specific vehicles by their unique identification numbers, tracing the movement of individual stolen cars. A BMW X5 and Chevrolet Camaro were allegedly delivered to the Fullerton Lot on March 14, 2025. A Ford Bronco was escorted to the Greenfield Lot in October 2023. Two stolen Range Rovers were shipped from Detroit to Iraq in August 2023.

They Provided Fake Companies To Authorities

The defendants also allegedly cycled through multiple companies as some became known to authorities. In March 2025, Mohammed Al Hilo allegedly asked Al Haydari for the name of a company that could ship cars "and whose name had not been burnt."

Two months later, Alnakash allegedly told Al Haydari that KJ ProMax, a company where Alnakash was the registered agent, had been "burned."

The indictment does not name the car thieves who allegedly supplied the stolen vehicles to the brokers. Prosecutors say the conspiracy included others "known and unknown to the grand jury."