

## **US Judge Sentences Liberian Wildlife Trafficker to More Than 5 Years in Jail**

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NEW YORK — A U.S. judge sentenced a Liberian man to 63 months in prison for conspiring to traffic millions of dollars' worth of horns and ivory from endangered rhinoceros and elephants, federal prosecutors said Thursday.

Moazu Kromah, a Uganda resident, was extradited from the west African country to the United States in June 2019 and has been detained since then. He pleaded guilty in March of this year to

one count of conspiracy to commit wildlife trafficking and two counts of wildlife trafficking, the office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Damian Williams, said in a statement.

The trafficking plot involved the illegal poaching of more than 35 rhinoceros and more than 100 elephants.

Williams praised the more than five-year sentence handed down by U.S. District Judge Gregory H. Woods.

“Today’s sentence demonstrates that those who are responsible for the decimation of global populations of endangered and threatened animals protected by international agreements will face serious consequences,” he said.

Kromah, 49, and accomplices had buyers in the United States and Southeast Asia, trafficking at least 190 kilograms of rhinoceros horns and at least 10 tons of elephant ivory from East African countries between roughly 2012 and 2019.

The estimated average retail value of the rhinoceros horn and elephant ivory was at least around \$3.4 million and \$4 million respectively.

During the investigation, law enforcement agents intercepted multiple packages bound for Manhattan buyers containing rhinoceros horns.

They concealed some of the animal parts in pieces of art such as African masks and statues, the New York investigators say.

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