Second fugitive caught from FBI's new Most Wanted Fraudsters list

A fugitive accused of helping run a massive $1.2 billion Medicare fraud operation targeting elderly Americans has been captured in the Philippines and returned to the United States, marking the second arrest from the FBI's newly launched "Most Wanted Fraudsters" list in just over two weeks.

Herbert Leon Kimble, 60, a Chicago native, had been on the run after failing to appear for sentencing in October 2024. He previously pleaded guilty in 2019 to conspiracy to defraud the United States after prosecutors accused him of playing a central role in a sweeping health care fraud and kickback scheme involving orthotic braces, offshore call centers and Medicare beneficiaries.

Federal authorities say Kimble controlled and operated an offshore call center from roughly 2014 to April 2019 that marketed braces for pain through television and internet ads. When Medicare beneficiaries called the advertised numbers, they were screened, pushed toward braces and often sold additional products. The call center then worked with telemedicine companies whose doctors allegedly issued prescriptions without properly considering whether the braces were medically necessary, according to the Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General.

Kimble was originally charged with conspiracy to defraud the United States, health care fraud, wire fraud, mail fraud, making false claims and offering kickbacks and bribes. After years of cooperating against other defendants, he skipped his sentencing and fled overseas rather than face the court.

FBI Director Kash Patel announced the arrest Friday, tying the capture directly to the Trump administration's broader fraud crackdown. "In just over two weeks, this is the second Most Wanted Fraudster arrested on the FBI's list led by Vice President Vance and the White House Task Force to Eliminate Fraud," Patel wrote on X.

The FBI's "Most Wanted Fraudsters" list was created through the Justice Department's National Fraud Enforcement Division to support President Trump's Task Force to Eliminate Fraud, led by Vice President JD Vance. The list has already produced two arrests, with federal officials also announcing last week that Said Abdullahi Ereg, 47, had been apprehended in connection with an alleged Minneapolis fraud scheme involving COVID-era child nutrition funds.

Authorities say participants in that case misappropriated and laundered millions of dollars meant to reimburse meals for needy children, another example of pandemic-era and federal benefit fraud that has drawn sharp scrutiny from the Trump administration.

Vance credited the new list with helping law enforcement track down both fugitives. “Our message is simple,” he wrote on X. “If you defraud the American people, we will find you and we will bring you to justice.”

Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said Kimble’s attempt to avoid accountability failed.

“Instead of facing accountability for his $1.2 billion Medicare fraud crimes in the United States, Kimble fled to the Philippines hoping to escape justice,” Blanche wrote on X. “That plan failed. Under President Trump’s leadership, this FBI has now apprehended two fraudsters from its recently unveiled Most Wanted Fraudster list in just two weeks, with more to come.”