# Senator Bob Menendez and Wife Face Bribery Trial in Manhattan Over Alleged Gold Bars Scheme



Senator Bob Menendez of New Jersey and his wife, Nadine Menendez, are currently on trial in Manhattan for an alleged bribery scheme involving gold bars, cash payments, and a luxury Mercedes-Benz convertible. The FBI's June 2022 raid of their residence revealed large quantities of cash and gold bars hidden throughout the home, including stuffed in a Timberland boot and a bed.

Menendez, a prominent Democrat and former chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, is accused of using his influence to benefit businessmen Wael Hana and Fred Daibes, as well as the government of Egypt. Both Menendez and his co-defendants, including his wife, have pleaded not guilty.

Testimonies presented by federal prosecutors aim to demonstrate a web of corrupt activities, including a halal certification scheme involving Hana. Witness John Moldovan, lead counsel for Hana's company IS EG Halal, testified about wiring money to pay off Nadine Menendez's mortgage and drafting a job contract for her despite her lack of experience. The defense claims Menendez was unaware of his wife's financial dealings, asserting she stored gold bars without his knowledge.

Notable potential witnesses for the trial include various senators and former high-ranking officials. The high-profile nature of the case continues to draw significant attention.