



## **South Carolina Department of Corrections**

Nov. 28, 2023

For immediate release

Contact: Chrysti Shain, (803) 413-8206

[Shain.Chrysti@doc.sc.gov](mailto:Shain.Chrysti@doc.sc.gov)

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** – The SCDC Inspector General released the arrest warrant today for a food service worker at Trenton Correctional Institution.

Ernst Ricot, 66, of Hephzibah, Ga., is charged with providing contraband to prisoners. His charge involves bringing 857 grams of tobacco into the institution in potato chip bags. He was fired.

The S.C. Department of Corrections reminds members of the public that after an arrest, the burden of proof is on the state to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt within a court of law.

A copy of the arrest warrant is attached.

## ARREST WARRANT

2023A1910200647

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Edgefield

THE STATE  
against

Ernst Ricot

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED]

Sex: M Race: B Height: 5 9 Weight: 220

DL State: GA DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] Agency ORI #: SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Division

Prosecuting Officer: William C Pruitt - S00400

Offense: Prisoners / Contraband, possession by prisoner,  
furnishing or attempt to furnish prisoner with

Offense Code: 0074

Code/Ordinance Sec: 24-03-0950

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☐ County/ ☐ Municipality ofThe accused  
is to be arrested and brought before me to be  
dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date: [REDACTED]

## RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant Ernst Ricoton 11/26/2023Off. Harris, Sha'Rontay  
Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

## RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions  
129 Courthouse Square  
P O Box 34  
Edgefield, SC 29824

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Edgefield

Personally appeared before me the affiant William C Pruitt whobeing duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Ernst Ricotdid within this county and state on or about 11/26/2023 violate the criminal laws of theState of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Edgefield)

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Prisoners / Contraband, possession by prisoner, furnishing or attempt to furnish prisoner with

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit  
the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

That on November 26, 2023, the Defendant, "Ernst Ricot" who is currently an employee @ Trenton Correctional Facility, while located @ 84 State Hwy S-19-29, Trenton, SC did commit the Offense of Prisoners/Contraband, possession by Prisoner, furnishing or Attempt to furnish Prisoner with: in that the Defendant did attempt to introduce items that are deemed as Contraband by the SCDC Director & Published by him in a Conspicuous place available to Employees @ Trenton Correctional Institution. Items recovered in the Defendant's possession were two bags of Sour Cream & Onion Potatoe Chip Bags fllled with a Brown Leafy Substance believed to be Tobacco w/appx.weight of 857 gms.. The items were found in the Defendant's Clear Personal Bag that he carried in from his vehicle. Probable Cause is based on the evidence being found on the Defendant, Witness Statements and Video Surveillance. Case # 03-2023-104

Signature of Affiant [Signature]

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Edgefield

Affiant's Address P.O. Box 21787Columbia, SC 29221-1787

Affiant's Telephone [REDACTED]

## ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 11/26/2023 defendant Ernst Ricot

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Edgefield ) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Prisoners / Contraband, possession by prisoner, furnishing or attempt to furnish prisoner with

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable  
Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 11/26/2023[Signature]  
Signature of Issuing Judge

Joseph V. Mosley

Judge Code: 7429

(L.S.)

Judge's Address Post Office Box 664Edgefield, SC 29824-Judge's Telephone (803)637-4090Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

Form Approved by  
S.C. Attorney General  
April 21, 2003  
SCCA 518

ORIGINAL

AFFIDAVIT