

The co-founder of a criminal enterprise known as the "Tran Organization" pleaded guilty Friday in San Diego to conspiring to participate a scheme to cheat casinos across the country, including Foxwoods Resort Casino and Mohegan Sun, out of millions of dollars.

Van Thu Tran, 45, admitted that in approximately August 2002, she and

co-conspirators Phuong Quoc Truong, Tai Khiem Tran and others created the Tran Organization for the purpose of cheating at casinos across the United States. She admitted that she and her co-conspirators unlawfully obtained up to \$7 million during card cheats and as part of her plea agreement, agreed to forfeit her interests in various assets, including jewelry.

At her April 11 sentencing, Van Thu Tran faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and payment of restitution to the victims.

"Today's guilty plea by the co-founder of the Tran Organization marks the final chapter for a group that targeted as many as 29 casinos in the United States and Canada in their card cheating scheme," said Assistant Attorney General Larry A. Breuer.

To date, 42 defendants have pleaded guilty to charges relating to the casino-cheating conspiracy.

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