

NONPRECEDENTIAL DISPOSITION

To be cited only in accordance with FED. R. APP. P. 32.1

United States Court of Appeals**For the Seventh Circuit
Chicago, Illinois 60604**

Submitted June 12, 2025*

Decided June 13, 2025

BeforeDIANE S. SYKES, *Chief Judge*MICHAEL Y. SCUDDER, *Circuit Judge*DORIS L. PRYOR, *Circuit Judge*

No. 24-2707

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
*Plaintiff-Appellee,**v.*IBN AWAAN HANEEF SAFEEULLAH,
*Defendant-Appellant.*Appeal from the United States District
Court for the Northern District of
Illinois, Western Division.

No. 23 CR 50036-1

Lindsay C. Jenkins[†],
*Judge.***ORDER**

In this appeal, Ibn Awaan Safeeullah (also known as Ibnawaan Safeeullah) challenges the validity of his indictment and his conviction for possessing a weapon while a federal prisoner. We affirm.

* We have agreed to decide the case without oral argument because the appeal is frivolous. FED. R. APP. P. 34(a)(2)(A).

[†] Judge Jenkins, who sits with the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, handled this case on reassignment by the district court's executive committee.

In November 2022, guards at a federal prison in Thomson, Illinois, discovered that Safeeullah had hidden in his waistband a seven-inch piece of plastic that was sharpened into a point. A federal grand jury indicted him on one count of possessing a prohibited object, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1791(a)(2), (b)(3), (d)(1)(B). Safeeullah asked to represent himself, and a magistrate judge—after conducting a colloquy to confirm that his waiver of the right to counsel was knowing and intelligent—allowed him to proceed pro se.

Safeeullah then moved to dismiss the indictment. His argument is obscure, but he appeared to challenge the indictment on grounds that it named a “DEBTOR” or “PROPERTY” or “CORPORATION” rather than his own name—“The Living, Breathing, Sentient Being.” District Judge Reinhard denied the motion as frivolous. As the judge explained, the indictment contained all the elements of the charged crime and adequately informed Safeeullah of the nature of the charge. Citing *United States v. Benabe*, 654 F.3d 753 (7th Cir. 2011), the judge added that we repeatedly have rejected similar sovereign-citizen arguments.

Safeeullah filed two additional motions to dismiss the indictment, reprising many of the same arguments. Judge Jenkins, who had been reassigned the case, denied these motions for the reasons that Judge Reinhard stated.

A jury later convicted Safeeullah, and Judge Jenkins sentenced him to 12 months and a day in prison.

On appeal, Safeeullah maintains that the indictment was defective because it did not state an offense against “Ibn Awaan Safeeullah,” who is the “The Living, Breathing, Sentient Being.” But we have again and again spurned arguments that a defendant is a sovereign citizen beyond the jurisdiction of the courts. *See, e.g., United States v. Jones*, 65 F.4th 926, 928 (7th Cir. 2023); *Bey v. State*, 847 F.3d 559, 560–61 (7th Cir. 2017); *Benabe*, 654 F.3d at 767.

Safeeullah tries to distinguish *Benabe* and related sovereign-citizen cases based on the absence in those cases of un rebutted, sworn affidavits that contested the validity of the indictment. This distinction is immaterial. Indeed, in *Benabe* we endorsed the district judge’s decision to ignore an affidavit that advanced nonsensical sovereign-citizen arguments. *Benabe*, 654 F.3d at 767. Here, the two district judges rightly disregarded Safeeullah’s affidavit because it was baseless and fantastic. *See United States v. Coleman*, 138 F.4th 489, ___, 2025 WL 1407346 at *14 (7th Cir. May 15, 2025); *United States v. Hunter*, 197 F.3d 862, 865 (7th Cir. 1999). Safeeullah’s sovereign-citizen

No. 24-2707

Page 3

arguments, even if presented in a sworn affidavit, “should be rejected summarily.” *Benabe*, 654 F.3d at 767.

Finally, Safeeullah cites provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code, statutes concerning the registration of foreign agents, two out-of-circuit cases, and various religious texts and maxims. None of these relate in any way to the sufficiency of the indictment or his conviction.

AFFIRMED