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R. Allen Stanford gets 110 years for role in \$7B swindle

By Juan A. Lozano, Associated Press

Updated 6/14/2012 2:12 PM

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HOUSTON – Former jet-setting Texas tycoon [R. Allen Stanford](#), whose financial empire once spanned the Americas, was sentenced Thursday to 110 years in prison for bilking investors out of more than \$7 billion over 20 years in one of the largest Ponzi schemes in U.S. history.



Nick de la Torre, AP

In this March 6 file photo, R. Allen Stanford leaves the federal courthouse in Houston.

U.S. District Judge David Hittner handed down the sentence during a court hearing in which two people spoke on behalf of Stanford's investors about how his fraud had affected their lives.

Prosecutors had asked that Stanford be sentenced to 230 years in prison, the maximum sentence possible after a jury convicted the one-time billionaire in March on 13 of 14 fraud-related counts. Stanford's convictions on conspiracy, wire and mail fraud charges followed a seven-week trial.

Stanford's attorneys had asked for a maximum of 44 months, a sentence he could have completed within

about eight months because he has been jailed since his arrest in June 2009.

During Thursday's sentencing hearing, Stanford gave rambling statement to the court in which he denied he did anything wrong. Speaking for more than 40 minutes, Stanford said he was a scapegoat and blamed the federal government and a U.S. appointed receiver who took over his companies for tearing down his business empire and preventing his investors from getting any of their money back.

"I'm not here to ask for sympathy or forgiveness or to throw myself at your mercy," Stanford told Hittner. "I did not run a Ponzi scheme. I didn't defraud anybody."

Stanford was once considered one of the richest men in the U.S., with an estimated net worth of more than \$2 billion. His financial empire stretched from the U.S. to [Latin America](#) and the Caribbean. But after his arrest, all of his assets were seized and he had to rely on court-appointed attorneys to defend him.

Calling Stanford arrogant and remorseless, prosecutors said he used the money from investors who bought certificates of deposit, or CDs, from his bank on the Caribbean island nation of Antigua to fund a string of failed businesses, bribe regulators and pay for a lavish lifestyle that included yachts, a fleet of private jets and sponsorship of cricket tournaments.

Defense attorneys portrayed Stanford, 62, as a visionary entrepreneur who made money for investors and conducted legitimate business deals. They accused the prosecution's star witness — [James M. Davis](#), the former chief financial officer for Stanford's various companies — of being behind the fraud and tried to discredit him by calling him a liar and tax cheat.

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Tom Shaw, Getty Images

That was then: Allen Stanford at a June 11, 2008, news conference for the Stanford 20/20 tournament at Lords Cricket Ground in London.

The jury that convicted Stanford also cleared the way for U.S. authorities to go after about \$330 million in stolen investor funds sitting in the financier's frozen foreign bank accounts in Canada, England and Switzerland.

But due to legal wrangling, it could be years before the more than 21,000 investors recover anything, and whatever they ultimately get will only be a fraction of what they lost.

The financier's trial was delayed after he was declared incompetent in January 2011 due to an anti-anxiety drug addiction he developed in jail. He underwent treatment and was declared fit for trial in December.

Three other former Stanford executives are scheduled for trial in September. A former Antiguan financial regulator was indicted and awaits extradition to the U.S.

Stanford and his former executives also are fighting a lawsuit from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission that accuses them of fraud.

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Sherry Briggs · ★ Top Commenter

Justice!!

Reply · 2 · Like · Follow Post · June 14, 2012 at 6:34pm



Cecil Edwards · Follow · ★ Top Commenter · Student at Learning everything or anything?

If he worked for Citibank or Lehman Bros. he would have gotten \$2B bonus with gov. bailout funds?

Reply · Like · June 14, 2012 at 11:41pm



Jane Franklin

Love it when turds like this go down.

Reply · 1 · Like · June 14, 2012 at 11:42pm



Fred Lander · ★ Top Commenter · Bloomfield College

The should put his attorney away for good



He should put his attorneys away longer!

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · [Follow Post](#) · June 14, 2012 at 6:42pm



Keir Weimer · ★ Top Commenter · President and Founder at The Thistle Island Group, LLC

Keir Weimer thinks this sentence is commensurate with the crimes perpetrated. This individual betrayed the trust of countless unwitting investors, defrauded them, and bilked them out of their hard-earned savings all so he could fuel his unending hubris and thirst for more. Sad, pitiable and as we can all see, very punishable.

–Keir Weimer

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Peter Fogarty · ★ Top Commenter · University of Virginia

you are just jealous he was cool

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · June 14, 2012 at 7:23pm



Can Gee · ★ Top Commenter

Peter Fogarty: Huh? Jealous of someone who knew how to scam people's money? Stanford must be your role model.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · June 14, 2012 at 8:10pm



Peter Fogarty · ★ Top Commenter · University of Virginia

Can Gee Yes , you have to appreciate the magnitude of this scheme.....with that said he is a lot better idol than the thief in the white house...

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · June 14, 2012 at 8:38pm

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Milo Bendech · ★ Top Commenter · Wayne State University

This administration is determined to punish job creators like investors and R. Allen Stanford. Putting investors in jail on trumped up charges is just more "class warfare" by an Obama administration intent on blaming investors like R. Allen Stanford for the bad economy. R. Allen Stanford is creating wealth by utilizing the free market. No one invests without looking before you leap. If anyone lost money it's because they abandoned control of their assets and were not vigilant. R. Allen Stanford is just being scapegoated for being successful.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · [Follow Post](#) · June 14, 2012 at 7:03pm



Theodore DeZorzi · ★ Top Commenter · Greensburg Institue of Technology – Yippee

I ditto what Joseph Lion said. This crap went on before Obama but came into office. It's TX, pretty corrupt state. He's not the first or last from TX to scam people out of money.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · June 14, 2012 at 7:35pm



Arnold Indictor · ★ Top Commenter · Temple University

Milo, R. Allen isn't creating anything he is just a high class thief. The fact that he steals billions instead of just robbing someone on the street doesn't make him better than any other thug.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · June 14, 2012 at 7:37pm



Jen Kirley · ★ Top Commenter · University of Southern Maine

It's a window into a person's soul when that person calls ritual, long term fraud a success story and job creation.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · June 14, 2012 at 8:00pm

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Joe Costigan · ★ Top Commenter · The George Washington University

I know how Stanford feels. One time in Vegas, I was up \$100 at a blackjack table, and then I lost it all. Should of walked while I was ahead. Dang it.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · [Follow Post](#) · June 14, 2012 at 7:06pm



Ron Hawkster · ★ Top Commenter

This is a miscarriage of justice. He should have been sentenced to 230 years instead of 110. Now he's going to be out on the streets again in 110 years, ponzying people out of billions more in the year 2122. I hope people still have the internets then so that they can SpaceGoogle his name and find out what a sleazeball he is. I hope the Alien gets him.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · [Follow Post](#) · June 14, 2012 at 7:08pm



Shawn T Lockett · [Follow](#) · ★ Top Commenter · Works at U.S. Department of State

awesome!

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · June 14, 2012 at 7:55pm



Salomeh Ghorbani · ★ Top Commenter

Former jet-setting Texas tycoon R. Allen Stanford, whose financial empire once spanned the Americas, was sentenced Thursday to 110 years in prison for bilking investors out of more than \$7 billion over 20 years in one of the largest Ponzi schemes in U.S. history.

=====

GOOD! 1 down.....thousands more to go.....

Reply · 5 · Like · Follow Post · June 14, 2012 at 7:12pm



Lowell Jacoby · ★ Top Commenter · University of Miami

Salomeh Ghorbani observation, you can kill someone in this country and do ten to twenty years in prison. You mess with there money, you're going away for life. I think our priorities are bit mixed up.

Reply · 2 · Like · June 14, 2012 at 9:59pm



James T Yates

You kill someone(intentionally) in this country, and you should be KILLED, not just prison. You mess with money, and you shouldn't (in the end) cost the American people even MORE money

Reply · 1 · Like · June 15, 2012 at 12:52pm



Salomeh Ghorbani · ★ Top Commenter

Lowell Jacoby – I think the reason many murders get lighter sentences is the question of motive, intent, and the amount of evidence available. And even you have to admit that it is very rare for these white-collar criminals (who also ruin lives) to be made to pay for their crimes...

Reply · 2 · Like · June 15, 2012 at 12:55pm

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Stephan Carter · Follow · Owner and Founder at Carter's 21st Generation Poetry

Is about time Stanford gets justice because he really makes young ambitious business majors like me looks really bad!

Reply · Like · Follow Post · June 14, 2012 at 7:16pm



Al Boulos · ★ Top Commenter · Umkc, park col, longview comm col.

Looks like mitty may have found his running mate.

Reply · 15 · Like · Follow Post · June 14, 2012 at 7:17pm



Theodore DeZorzi · ★ Top Commenter · Greensburg Institue of Technology – Yippee

Please list the Reps that didn't return the money. They're all criminals!!

Reply · 2 · Like · June 14, 2012 at 7:33pm



Adam Bagnato · ★ Top Commenter

CrookCounty IL No sense in arguing with progressive drones. Romney could pick Bugs Bunny as a VP and will mop the floor with Obama. 1-20-2013 the end of a mistake.

Reply · 1 · Like · June 14, 2012 at 9:17pm



Mike Voelk · ★ Top Commenter · Northern Michigan University

Fools and I would add the uneducated...are quickly parted from their cash....the problem is that most people don't understand the grey world of financial advisement and management. They get suckered into a Madoff or more often just some inept operation that doesn't serve them well.

To me it's stocks and options and bonds. Those are the building blocks. Not using options limits the ability of most investors to make money off stocks. I've found the less risky options strategies make the entire investing game multi-dimentional vs. some staid buy and hold experience. If you don't know how it works, you have to hit the books.

People that are tricked up by a Stanford expect a steady flow of gravity defying results with no work. It's proven over and over again that even experienced money managers most often don't beat the S&P on average. To beat the street you need to be all about yourself, quick to change strategies and very very savvy.

Reply · Like · Follow Post · June 14, 2012 at 7:21pm



Gene Garbaccio · ★ Top Commenter · USA

Not enough lawyers are in jail.

Reply · Like · Follow Post · June 14, 2012 at 7:24pm



Jerry Geiger · ★ Top Commenter · NCSU

And yet, no prosecutions against the big Wall Street banks that cratered our economy. Wow! I guess it's true, the bigger the crime the more likely you'll get away with it.

Reply · 10 · Like · Follow Post · June 14, 2012 at 7:25pm



Jen Kirley · ★ Top Commenter · University of Southern Maine

A lot of what they did was legal due to deregulation.

Reply · 1 · Like · June 14, 2012 at 8:32pm



Jerry Geiger · ★ Top Commenter · NCSU

True Jun. But I find it doubtful there wasn't a lot of wire fraud going on. That's usually what they get stock swindlers on.

Reply · 1 · Like · June 14, 2012 at 8:43pm



Adam Bagnato · ★ Top Commenter

Our current Executive and Dept. of Justice is owned by JP Morgan / Chase. There will be



Our current Executive and Dept. of Justice is owned by JP Morgan/Chase. There will be no heads rolling. 1-20-2013 the end of a mistake.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · June 14, 2012 at 9:19pm

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John Aaron Cassidy · ★ Top Commenter

He's a hero to the GOP though. Make money at any cost is their mantra.

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Larry Walker · ★ Top Commenter

As Mr. Fogarty said, you have to appreciate the magnitude of this scheme.....with that said he is a PIKER compared to the thief in the white house...

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · June 14, 2012 at 9:20pm



Adam Bagnato · ★ Top Commenter

Kinda like stealing 6 billion from American taxpayers to fund crony green energy companies that go bankrupt? 1-20-2013 the end of a mistake.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) 1 · [Follow Post](#) · June 14, 2012 at 9:20pm



Todd King · ★ Top Commenter · Works at International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Adam Bagnato's blow up doll. The end of latex.

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Joe Common · ★ Top Commenter · Tampa, Florida

If you want to bilk millions of dollars out of people, you'll have to do it legally like Mitt Romney does, as a venture capitalist.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) 7 · [Follow Post](#) · June 14, 2012 at 7:33pm



Joe Common · ★ Top Commenter · Tampa, Florida

Why would anyone care?

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) 2 · [Follow Post](#) · June 14, 2012 at 8:02pm



Adam Bagnato · ★ Top Commenter

Or.....steal 6 billion from the taxpayers through government "venture capitalisim" in the form of crony green energy companies. 80% of that money went to donors. 1-20-2013 the end of a mistake.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) 1 · [Follow Post](#) · June 14, 2012 at 9:28pm



Joe Common · ★ Top Commenter · Tampa, Florida

Could be the beginning of a mistake. And, your 80% is fiction. Turn off Fox News and get your head out of the sand.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) 1 · [Follow Post](#) · June 14, 2012 at 10:12pm

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Czerny Ambrose · ★ Top Commenter

Meanwhile the GOP is fighting hard to get rid of the regulations and investigators who try to prevent fraud like this, Republicans claim the financial industry will police itself.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) 18 · [Follow Post](#) · June 14, 2012 at 7:37pm



Joe Common · ★ Top Commenter · Tampa, Florida

Watch the Senate Banking Committee's hearings with JPMorgans Chief Executive Jamie Dimon, who just lost multi-billions of dollars of investors money on a hedging scheme gone bad. Republican Senators kissed his arse so hard, that it made Jerry Sandusky blush. You would think he had just cured cancer, instead of committing bank fraud.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) 19 · [Follow Post](#) · June 14, 2012 at 8:11pm



Dan Krohn · ★ Top Commenter

Stanford and Madoff were staunch Democrat supporters...

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) 7 · [Follow Post](#) · June 14, 2012 at 8:14pm



Joe Common · ★ Top Commenter · Tampa, Florida

Makes sense. Republicans were already on board to deregulate Wall St. Bernie had to try and buy some democrats to get them to change their minds.

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Be Walters · ★ Top Commenter · Night Stalker at Wally World

no big deal.. he'll spend his last two decades or so in a moderate security prison at worse- but more likely minimum security. I hate these completely corrupt monsters, but at the same time murderers and rapists often get FAR less of a sentence, so I think the 110 year is patently ridiculous. Give him 18 years- and turn him lose on his good behavior parole when he is 73 or so,

	and call it justice. Reply ·  1 · Like · Follow Post · June 14, 2012 at 7:39pm
	Tom Branner · ★ Top Commenter · 28 years old So he steals \$7B of people's money and his attorney wants no more than 44 months in prison? you have to be kidding me. 230 years in prison would be way more fair. technically it won't be more than 60 years since he will die by then anyway, but still, 44 months is just ridiculous. Reply ·  1 · Like · Follow Post · June 14, 2012 at 7:45pm
	Ron Wilson · Roanoke, Virginia One down many more to go! Reply ·  2 · Like · Follow Post · June 14, 2012 at 8:16pm
	Joe Common · ★ Top Commenter · Tampa, Florida ...and Romney wants even lighter regulation of Wall Street. That's why the big investment firms are backing Romney big time this time around. What could possibly go wrong? Reply ·  2 · Like · Follow Post · June 14, 2012 at 8:27pm
	Adam Bagnato · ★ Top Commenter What ponzi/pyramid deregulation does Romney want exactly? Reply · Like · June 14, 2012 at 9:26pm
	Adam Bagnato · ★ Top Commenter You're a progressive drone so your brain is mush, so once again... What ponzi/pyramid deregulation does Romney want exactly? I follow FTC business rules alot lately watching an MLM. I have heard nothing about Romney wanting to change them. Reply · Like · June 15, 2012 at 3:18am
	James T Yates Joe Common did not specify a particular type of deregulation. Read better, and don't insult people that haven't replied yet. It makes you look rude. Reply ·  1 · Like · June 15, 2012 at 12:55pm
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	Boyd Creech · ★ Top Commenter · University of New Mexico Oh sure, he stole alright but, did he pay his taxes???? Reply · Like · Follow Post · June 14, 2012 at 8:43pm
	Derek Foudy This guy should have moved to Ireland if he was a crooked banker here he would not see a day in jail.. Reply · Like · Follow Post · June 14, 2012 at 9:21pm
	Wayne Eden · ★ Top Commenter · Works at Donkey poop picker-upper at 4E ranch the epitome of greed. how much money would he be satisfied with....all of it. i hope he doesn't end up in some soft prison. this guy needs to suffer big time. Reply · Like · Follow Post · June 14, 2012 at 10:28pm
	Bryan Oshio · ★ Top Commenter · Kaimuki High School Just one of many more crooks on Wall Street. Amazing, 21,000 people were duped into his scam due to greed. Happy for all of them. Reply · Like · Follow Post · June 14, 2012 at 10:39pm
	Fives Zack Fivenson · ★ Top Commenter · Traverse City, Michigan I assume that the jury got this right and the evidence proves Stanford committed fraud. What about the fraudsters in Washington running the Social Security ponzi scheme? The SS trustee admitted that it's also a fraud – http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITMEZImvNio Reply · Like · Follow Post · June 15, 2012 at 12:01am
	Scott Trask · ★ Top Commenter · UMass Boston Coudn't have happened to a more deserving fellow. Regardless of your politics I think i speak for the nation as a whole when I say Buh-Bye you sleezebag. Reply ·  1 · Like · Follow Post · June 15, 2012 at 2:42am
	J Noel Wagner · ★ Top Commenter Nice try Czerny. No one stops crooks, they get past all efforts. Except of course your liberal Democrat friends in the Congress. Check out what Madoff and Corzine did under your guys watch. And Barney with the housing market via Fannie and Freddie. Yea, see the fox in the henhouse. Better yet, watch where the stones land that you throw. I think your side has plenty of guilt in all this. Feels good, eh? Reply · Like · Follow Post · June 15, 2012 at 2:46am
	Maximumrider Groves · ★ Top Commenter



now that madoff and sanford are were they belong, can we go after the ceos who caused our near fatal financial melt down 3 1/2 years ago? or are geithner & co going to want us to belive the lie that these banks are too big ot fail and do not need regulation.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · [Follow Post](#) · June 15, 2012 at 5:09am



Wayne Anthony · ★ Top Commenter · San Diego, California

Thats not too shabby you know 110 years for 7 billion hey that still works out to over \$ 6 Million per year for sure thats worth robbing NOT LOL. I hope he enjoys jail food and cell.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · [Follow Post](#) · June 15, 2012 at 5:15am



Jason Ross · ★ Top Commenter

C Ya Mr. Stanford. Was it worth it

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · [Follow Post](#) · June 15, 2012 at 7:09am



John Fentis · ★ Top Commenter · Los Angeles, California

Putting this nation in the hands of one of the 2% is clearly not an option for November. When you have a Party who tries to deregulate what little protection investors have against people like R. Allen Stanford who pray on unsuspecting and uninformed investors through the use of misrepresentation, clearly this party is not going to do anything for the common worker or small business owner who still represent the backbone of our country's economic health. I still cannot believe that in the face of breaking news events such as this, 45% of this nation still wants to vote for the Mittwit....simply unfathomable.....

[Reply](#) · [3](#) · [Like](#) · [Follow Post](#) · June 15, 2012 at 3:38pm



Deauna Stafford · ★ Top Commenter

Obama -- 1% er ... just sayin

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · June 22, 2012 at 10:39pm



John Fentis · ★ Top Commenter · Los Angeles, California

don't know the source of your statement but Obama is not a 1%. The 1%ers like the Koch Bros., Darrell Issa, are billionaires not mere millionaires...so please clarify...I would welcome the dialogue

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · June 23, 2012 at 2:16am



Aaron Rodriguez · ★ Top Commenter · Baylor University

Damn idiot,he should have donated his stealings to Baylor at least. lol


[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · [Follow Post](#) · June 16, 2012 at 4:27am



Shahzad Gujjar ·

very nice i like you ford can i help u?

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · [Follow Post](#) · June 19, 2012 at 6:14am

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