



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:
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Event: Indictment

Defendant: Christopher V. Bandy

SOUTH LYON MAN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH SERIES OF PIPE BOMBINGS

A federal grand jury indictment was unsealed late yesterday afternoon charging a South Lyon man in connection with a series of pipe bombings that spanned from August 30, 2008 through April 3, 2009, United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced today.

Berg was joined in the announcement by Thomas E. Brandon, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Christopher V. Bandy, 32, of South Lyon, Michigan was arrested yesterday by federal agents and will be appearing in court this afternoon for a detention hearing.

The Indictment charges Bandy with manufacturing and possessing destructive devices in connection with the following pipe bombings in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties:

- The August 30, 2008 detonation of two pipe bombs outside an occupied

- residence in Whitmore Lake, Michigan;
- The September 5, 2008 detonation of one pipe bomb in a trailer park in Whitmore Lake, Michigan;
- The September 18, 2008 detonation of two pipe bombs outside an unoccupied dwelling in Whitmore Lake, Michigan; and
- The April 3, 2009 detonation of two pipe bombs outside an occupied residence in Howell, Michigan.

“There is no law-abiding reason why someone should engage in manufacturing explosive devices. The process of manufacturing and using these extremely dangerous devices is a threat to the safety of the community,” said U.S. Attorney Berg.

Special Agent in Charge Brandon stated that ATF is committed to the prevention, detection and response to explosive crimes. “There is no legitimate reason to manufacture or possess a pipe bomb. This case required a great deal of investigation; it was pursued the old fashioned way, using good police instincts and hard work.” Special Agent Brandon complimented the Livingston and Washtenaw County Narcotics Enforcement Team, the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office, the Hamburg Township Police Department, the Green Oak Township Police Department, and the Michigan Department of State Police, all of which provided valuable assistance in this investigation.

If convicted as charged, Bandy could receive a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment for each count of the indictment.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Louis Gabel.