

U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 31, 2011

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NEWS RELEASE GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENT CHARGING CABIBI WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER OF FEDERAL OFFICER

SALT LAKE CITY – Troy Cabibi, age 30, of South Salt Lake City, is charged with attempted murder of a federal officer in a federal indictment returned by a grand jury Wednesday afternoon. The three-count indictment also includes two alleged violations of federal firearms laws, including discharging a firearm during a crime of violence.

Cabibi was initially charged with assault on a federal officer in an indictment returned in November. A continuing investigation by law enforcement officers resulted in this week's superseding indictment.

Cabibi, who is in custody, will be arraigned in the next few weeks on the new indictment. His current trial date of April 25, 2011, likely will be continued based on the new charge.

The new indictment alleges Cabibi attempted to kill a task force officer assisting a Deputy United States Marshal during the performance of the Deputy Marshal's official duties. The charges stem from an incident which occurred around midnight on Aug. 26, 2010, when members of the

Joint Criminal Apprehension Team (JCAT) went to a home in South Salt Lake to serve an arrest warrant on Cabibi for a state parole violation. Local police officers work on the task force with Deputy U.S. Marshals and assist them in the performance of their duties. Shots were fired at the officers from inside the residence during the execution of the warrant. The potential penalty for this alleged crime is up to 20 years in federal prison.

The indictment also alleges that Cabibi discharged a firearm in his attempt to kill the federal officer. The potential penalty for discharging a firearm during the commission of a crime of violence is a mandatory minimum 10 years in federal prison. Sentences for a conviction of this crime run consecutive to any other sentence.

Cabibi, a convicted felon, also is charged with possessing a semiautomatic handgun. Under federal law, individuals with felony convictions are prohibited from possessing a firearm. This count carries a potential 10year sentence.

U.S. Attorney Carlie Christensen said the conduct alleged in this case is something federal prosecutors take very seriously.

"There has been a dramatic rise in the number of officers killed in the line of duty over the last 15 months. Last year was one of the deadliest years on record for law enforcement throughout the United States in nearly two decades, including four officers killed in the line of duty in Utah. Unfortunately, we are on track to exceed last year's tragic number," Christensen said. "Since the beginning of this year, 27 law enforcement officers have been killed by firearms or assaults. This is an increase of more than 13 percent in fatalities compared to this same point in 2010, when 20 officers were killed by firearms or assaults."

"These figures are unacceptable. Our law enforcement officers put themselves in harm's way every day to ensure the safety and security of our communities. We must do everything we can to promote their safety including the aggressive prosecution of those individuals who put officers' lives at risk." Christensen said.

Christensen said, as a part of a Department of Justice initiative, her office will be working with local, state, federal and tribal law enforcement

leaders in Utah in coming weeks to identify ways to improve officer safety and reverse the disturbing trend of increased violence against law enforcement officers who protect the lives and property of Utah residents every day.

Indictments are not findings of guilt. Individuals charged in indictments are presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty in court.

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