



## U.S. Department of Justice

### *United States Attorney Eastern District of Arkansas*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **MAUMELLE WOMAN INDICTED FOR HATE CRIMES**

**Little Rock** - Tim Griffin, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, announced today the return of a two-count indictment against Shawn Simones Hardin. Hardin, age 42, of Maumelle, Arkansas, is alleged to have sent a threatening communication to an African-American family living in Maumelle.

According to the indictment, the written threat was sent by Hardin on February 20, 2007, and was aimed at the family because of their race and because they were living in the vicinity of the Maumelle Country Club.

The first count of the indictment charges Hardin with sending a racially motivated threat to the victims. Count One is punishable by up to one year in prison and/or a \$100,000 fine. Count Two charges Hardin with using the U.S. Mail to send a threatening communication. Count Two is punishable by up to 5 years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine.

“Today’s indictment sends the message that we will not tolerate threats and discrimination based on race. The United States Attorney’s Office is committed to ensuring Arkansans are free to live where ever they choose without fear,” said Griffin.

The initial investigation was conducted by the Maumelle Police Department. The follow-up investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in conjunction with the Maumelle authorities.

An indictment contains only allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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