

NEWS

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Wisconsin Man Charged in Internet Threat to Detonate
“Dirty Bomb” in Seven Football Stadiums in United States

(More)

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NEWARK, N.J. – A 20-year-old Wisconsin man has been charged for being the source of an Internet posting that threatened to detonate radioactive “dirty bombs” at football stadiums in seven states, including New Jersey, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced today.

Jake J. Brahm, of Wauwatosa, Wis., was charged in a criminal complaint with willfully conveying false information or hoaxes threatening to damage buildings through the use of weapons of mass destruction and radiological dispersal devices. The charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Brahm, a grocery store worker, turned himself in to the U.S. Marshal’s Service in Milwaukee this morning on a criminal complaint filed under seal yesterday in Newark. Brahm was first taken into custody by local police in Wauwatosa on Wednesday, based on information police received that Brahm was the source of the Internet threat to bomb football stadiums. The FBI was immediately notified and Brahm was interviewed by Special Agents Wednesday evening.

Brahm is expected to make an initial appearance today at about 2:30 p.m. Central Time in federal court in Milwaukee before U.S. District Judge Patricia J. Gorence. He faces indictment in the District of New Jersey on the false information/hoax charge.

“These types of hoaxes scare innocent people, cost business resources and waste valuable homeland security resources,” Christie said. “We cannot tolerate this Internet version of yelling fire in a crowded theater in the post 9/11 era.”

According to the criminal complaint, Brahm admitted during the FBI interview to posting the threatening message on the website www.4chan.org. Brahm admitted that between September and Wednesday, he had posted the same message approximately 40 times on various Internet websites.

In the message, Brahm said that on Oct. 22, seven “dirty explosive devices” would be detonated at stadiums in New York (the NFL Jets are scheduled to play on Sunday at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.), Miami, Atlanta, Seattle, Houston, Oakland and Cleveland.

The message went on to say that the bombs would be delivered via truck. All of the stadiums but one (Atlanta) are open-air arenas. Brahm said that would allow for a maximum death toll, with the radioactive fallout spreading beyond the stadium to a wider public area.

“The death toll will approach 100,000 from the initial blasts and countless other fatalities will later occur as result from radioactive fallout,” the Internet posting said.

The explosions would be lauded by Osama bin Laden, Brahm said, and the aftermath of the near simultaneous blasts would be civil wars around the globe. "Global economies will screech to a halt. General chaos will rule."

A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI in Newark, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Leslie G. Wiser, Jr., for their work in the investigation leading to the charges against Brahm. Christie also credited FBI Special Agents and the Joint Terrorism Task Force in Milwaukee, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Richard K. Ruminski, for their work in the investigation, as well as the Wauwatosa, Wis. Police Department for its assistance in the case.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael A. Hammer, Jr., chief of the U.S. Attorney's Office Terrorism Unit in Newark.

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Defense Counsel: Patrick Knight, Esq.