

JUN 06 2019

TONY R. MOORE, CLERK

BY  DEPUTY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA  
LAFAYETTE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VERSUS

HOLDEN JAMES MATTHEWS

\* CRIMINAL NO.  
\*  
\* 18 U.S.C. § 247(a)(1)  
\* 18 U.S.C. § 844(h)  
\*  
\* 6:19-CR-00183-01  
\* Judge Summerhays  
\* Magistrate Judge Whitehurst

INDICTMENT

THE FEDERAL GRAND JURY CHARGES:

COUNT ONE

Intentional Damage to Religious Property  
[18 U.S.C. §§ 247(a)(1) and (d)(3)]

On or about March 26, 2019, in the Western District of Louisiana, the defendant, HOLDEN JAMES MATTHEWS, intentionally defaced, damaged, and destroyed, and attempted to deface, damage, and destroy, religious real property, specifically the St. Mary Baptist Church, located in Port Barre, Louisiana, because of the religious character of that property. The offense was in and affected interstate and foreign commerce, and the offense included the use, attempted use, and threatened use of fire. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 247(a)(1) and (d)(3). [18 U.S.C. §§ 247(a)(1) and (d)(3)].

COUNT TWO  
Using Fire to Commit a Felony  
[18 U.S.C. § 844(h)(1)]

On or about March 26, 2019, in the Western District of Louisiana, the defendant, HOLDEN JAMES MATTHEWS, used fire to commit a felony prosecutable in a court of the United States, that is the intentional destruction of religious property, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 247(a)(1), as charged in Count One of this Indictment, all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(h)(1). [18 U.S.C. § 844(h)(1)].

COUNT THREE  
Intentional Damage to Religious Property  
[18 U.S.C. §§ 247(a)(1) and (d)(3)]

On or about April 2, 2019, in the Western District of Louisiana, the defendant, HOLDEN JAMES MATTHEWS, intentionally defaced, damaged, and destroyed, and attempted to deface, damage, and destroy, religious real property, specifically the Greater Union Baptist Church, located in Opelousas, Louisiana, because of the religious character of that property. The offense was in and affected interstate and foreign commerce, and the offense included the use, attempted use, and threatened use of fire. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 247(a)(1) and (d)(3). [18 U.S.C. §§ 247(a)(1) and (d)(3)].

COUNT FOUR  
Using Fire to Commit a Felony  
[18 U.S.C. § 844(h)(1)]

On or about April 2, 2019, in the Western District of Louisiana, the defendant, HOLDEN JAMES MATTHEWS, used fire to commit a felony prosecutable in a court of the United States, that is the intentional destruction of religious property, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 247(a)(1), as charged in Count Three of this Indictment, all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(h)(1). [18 U.S.C. § 844(h)(1)].

COUNT FIVE  
Intentional Damage to Religious Property  
[18 U.S.C. §§ 247(a)(1) and (d)(3)]

On or about April 4, 2019, in the Western District of Louisiana, the defendant, HOLDEN JAMES MATTHEWS, intentionally defaced, damaged, and destroyed, and attempted to deface, damage, and destroy, religious real property, specifically the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, located in Opelousas, Louisiana, because of the religious character of that property. The offense was in and affected interstate and foreign commerce, and the offense included the use, attempted use, and threatened use of fire. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 247(a)(1) and (d)(3). [18 U.S.C. §§ 247(a)(1) and (d)(3)].

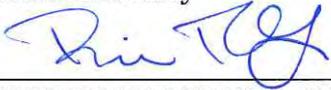
COUNT SIX  
Using Fire to Commit a Felony  
[18 U.S.C. § 844(h)(1)]

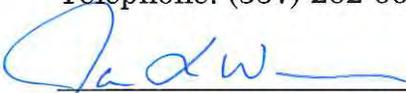
On or about April 4, 2019, in the Western District of Louisiana, the defendant, HOLDEN JAMES MATTHEWS, used fire to commit a felony prosecutable in a court of the United States, that is the intentional destruction of religious property, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 247(a)(1), as charged in Count Five of this Indictment, all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(h)(1). [18 U.S.C. § 844(h)(1)].

A TRUE BILL  
**REDACTED**

DAVID C. JOSEPH  
United States Attorney

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DOMINIC ROSSETTI, CA Bar No. 287676  
Assistant United States Attorney  
800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70501  
Telephone: (337) 262-6618

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN LUKE WALKER, LA Bar No. 18077  
Assistant United States Attorney  
800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70501  
Telephone: (337) 262-6618

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RISA BERKHOWER, NY Bar No. 4536538  
Trial Attorney  
Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington D.C., 20530  
Telephone: (202) 305-0150