

AO 91 (Rev. 08/09) Criminal Complaint

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the
Eastern District of Louisiana

United States of America

v.

JAHVAR HOOKS
a/k/a Janvar Hooks

Case No. 13-110 MAG

Defendant(s)

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

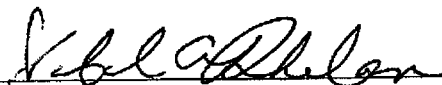
On or about the date(s) of August 12, 2013 - August 19, 2013 in the parish of Orleans in the
Eastern District of Louisiana, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section
18 U.S.C. § 844(e)

Offense Description
did, through the use of the telephone, or other instrument of interstate or foreign commerce, or in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, willfully make threats, or maliciously conveyed false information knowing the same to be false, concerning an attempt or alleged attempt being made, or to be made, to kill, injure, or intimidate any individual or unlawfully to damage or destroy any building, vehicle, or other real or personal property by means of fire or an explosive.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:
see attached Affidavit

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.



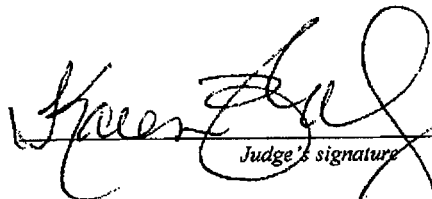
Complainant's signature

Special Agent Natalie A. Phelan
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 08/20/2013



Judge's signature

City and state: New Orleans, Louisiana

Honorable Karen Wells Roby, U.S. Magistrate Judge
Printed name and title

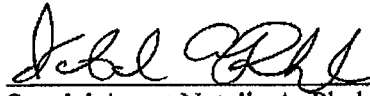
AFFIDAVIT

I, NATALIE A. PHELAN, being duly sworn, depose and state:

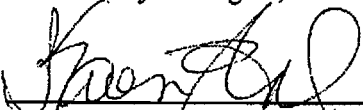
1. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), and assigned to the New Orleans Field Office. I have been employed as a Special Agent for over fourteen (14) years, and have participated in numerous investigations and arrests, including cases involving bomb threats. I am presently assigned to the Joint Terrorism Task Force, based in New Orleans, Louisiana. The task force is currently investigating a series of bomb threats called in to the New Orleans Police Department 9-1-1 System.
2. I am familiar with the circumstances of the offenses described in this affidavit through a combination of personal knowledge of the facts; discussions with other FBI Special Agents; discussions with other law enforcement officials; and, other investigative activities conducted and investigative materials obtained during the investigation.
3. I make this affidavit in support of a criminal complaint charging JAHVAR HOOKS (additional spelling of record Janvar Hooks) with violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(e), utilizing a telephone to convey a bomb threat. This affidavit does not include all facts known to me, but rather contains facts sufficient to support the issuance of an arrest warrant.
4. HOOKS is believed to be responsible for calling in telephonic "bomb threats" to a number of locations within the City of New Orleans beginning on approximately August 12, 2013, at 11:02 a.m., and continuing through August 19, 2013. In excess of forty (40) bomb calls have been placed in a similar manner since August 12, 2013. Locations for the bomb calls have varied, but have included schools, hotels, casinos, and government buildings. During the series of bomb calls, the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court and the New Orleans Municipal/Traffic Court were evacuated during business hours in order for the facility to be searched and determined safe.
5. Through the course of investigation, records from the City of New Orleans 9-1-1 Center reveal that calls were placed by a cellular telephone which appeared to be no longer in service, but capable of making calls to 9-1-1. Calls from that number ceased on August 14, 2013. However, a similar call pattern resumed on Monday, August 19, 2013, in which telephonic bomb threats were placed from a number of pay telephones throughout New Orleans.
6. Specifically, on August 19, 2013, at approximately 5:03 p.m., according to records and information provided by the City of New Orleans 9-1-1 Call Center, a telephone call was placed to 9-1-1 from a pay telephone located in the 1700 block of North Rampart Street.

7. New Orleans Police Fifth District Officers arrived on the scene and located the pay phone, telephone number (504) 943-8799, outside of Rampart Food Store, located at 1700 North Rampart Street. Officers queried inside the business for a view of outside surveillance camera coverage. The officers reviewed video coverage from the surveillance camera and observed a black male utilizing the pay phone at the time of the call. Officers noted the description of the male and proceeded to search the area for a male fitting that description.
8. At approximately 5:15 p.m., police officers in the area located a male, who appeared to be the same male on the surveillance video, in the 500 block of North Rampart Street near a pay telephone. Officers initiated surveillance on the male, now known to be JAHVAR HOOKS.
9. During the course of the surveillance, HOOKS remained near the corner of North Rampart and Toulouse Streets near the pay telephone. HOOKS sat in a yellow colored folding chair, which he placed near the pay telephone, and waited on the sidewalk while numerous people and buses passed. At approximately 6:07 p.m., HOOKS stood from his chair, picked up the pay telephone, appeared to make a brief call and walked away.
10. Officers detained HOOKS in order to conduct further investigation, and HOOKS spontaneously admitted that he had tried to call many times in order to get help, but recently had been calling the operator "saying crazy things," in order to get their attention.
11. In order to conduct further investigation, HOOKS was transported to the New Orleans Police Department First District Station located at 501 North Rampart Street, New Orleans. During interview, HOOKS advised that he began calling 9-1-1 and making "bomb calls" approximately one week prior. He originally called the 9-1-1 operator to request an ambulance pick him up for his "mental health," and became upset after waiting several hours with no response. HOOKS did not believe that the operators were taking him seriously, and proceeded to call back the 9-1-1 Operator and stated that something was "going on" on St. Philip Street. He told the operator that there was a bomb in a house. (New Orleans Police Department 9-1-1 records indicate that a bomb threat was called in to a school, located at 1423 St. Philip Street in New Orleans on August 12, 2012, one week prior to HOOKS' arrest. The school was subsequently evacuated and searched for explosive devices, though none were located.)

12. Over the course of the week following the initial telephone call, HOOKS stated that he began calling 9-1-1 on a regular basis, advising that there were bombs at numerous locations throughout New Orleans. He admitted to calling in at least two (2) bomb calls to "Tulane and Broad," the popular terminology used to refer to Orleans Parish District Courthouse, located at Tulane Avenue and Broad Street in New Orleans.
13. When asked to discuss all of the calls that he conducted, HOOKS admitted that "all of the bomb threats were me," however he was unable or unwilling to articulate details involving dates, times and locations of each of the calls. HOOKS did believe that if the calls were played for him, he would be able to identify his own voice as the one making the calls.
14. Referring specifically to August 19, 2013, HOOKS admitted that he stood outside of a store, known to be Rampart Food Store, which is located at 1700 North Rampart Street in New Orleans, Louisiana, and placed a call utilizing the pay telephone outside the store. He stated in the call that there was a bomb at the Empress Hotel, which is located at 1317 Ursulines Avenue, and hung up the telephone.
15. HOOKS advised that he had been prescribed medication in the past for mental health issues, and has spoken to a counselor at the Covenant House as recently as earlier on the day of arrest advising that he needed help.
16. For the reasons explained above, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause to believe that on August 19, 2013, at approximately 5:03 p.m., HOOKS did, through the use of telephone, willfully make a threat, knowing same to be false, regarding an explosive device, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 844(e).


Special Agent Natalie A. Phelan
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subscribed to and sworn before me
this 20th day of August, 2013.


Honorable Karen Wells Roby
United States Magistrate Judge