

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORKs

7: 25-MJ-3633

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

NIGEL TRENH,

Defendant.

**COMPLAINT**

Violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 844(e);  
1038(a)(1)

COUNTY OF OFFENSE:  
DUTCHESS

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ss.:

WILLIAM LAHAM, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), and charges as follows:

**COUNT ONE**

**(False Information Involving an Explosive)**

1. On or about August 29, 2025, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, NIGEL TRENH, the defendant, through the use of the telephone and other instrument of interstate and foreign commerce, and in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, willfully made a threat, and maliciously conveyed false information knowing the same to be false, concerning an attempt and alleged attempt being made, and to be made, to kill, injure, and intimidate an individual and unlawfully to damage and destroy a building, vehicle, and other real and personal property by means of fire and an explosive, to wit, TRENH falsely conveyed in an Internet posting that there was a bomb in a college dormitory.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(e).)

**COUNT TWO**

**(Hoax Involving Explosives and Firearms)**

2. On or about August 29, 2025, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, NIGEL TRENH, the defendant, engaged in conduct with intent to convey false and misleading information under circumstances where such information may reasonably be believed and where such information indicated that an activity had taken, was taking, and would take place that would constitute violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 844(i) and 924(c)(1)(A), to wit, TRENH knowingly conveyed false and misleading information regarding a purported bomb and an active shooter in a college dormitory, resulting in the dormitory's evacuation and a response by law enforcement.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 1038(a)(1).)

The bases for my knowledge and for the foregoing charges are, in part, as follows:

3. I am a Special Agent with the FBI currently assigned to the FBI's New York Field Office as a member of the Hudson Valley Safe Streets Task Force. I have been employed by the FBI since December 2022. Prior to that time, I was employed as a Maryland State Trooper for over seven years. I have participated in numerous investigations involving interstate crimes through means of interstate commerce, including telephone, mail, and the Internet, as well as cases involving violent crimes and threats of violence.

4. This affidavit is based upon my personal participation in the investigation of this matter, my conversations with witnesses and other law enforcement officers, and my examination and review of documents and records, including law enforcement reports. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause, it does not include all the facts that I have learned during my investigation. Where the contents of documents and the actions, statements, and conversations of others are reported herein, they are reported in substance and in part.

5. On or about August 29, 2025, at approximately 7:45 a.m., the following message was posted anonymously to an online discussion board and news feed hosted by the social media application Fizz, which was accessible to and used by students at a liberal arts college located in the Southern District of New York ("College-1"):



6. Through discussions with College-1 personnel and other law enforcement officers, my review of law enforcement and other records and documents, and my participation in this investigation, I have learned the following, in substance and in part, regarding this social media post (the "August 29 Post") and the events that followed its publication:

a. Among members of the College-1 campus community, "Davi" is a common shorthand for "Davison House," a residence hall located on or near the campus of College-1 that houses approximately 191 students.

b. At approximately 9:43 a.m. on or about August 29, 2025, a College-1 student reported the August 29 Post to a College-1 employee, who in turn reported it to College-1 security personnel. At approximately 9:46 a.m., College-1 security personnel reported the August 29 Post to local law enforcement.

c. On or about August 29, 2025, undergraduate students at College-1 were moving into Davison House and other College-1 dormitories in advance of the Fall 2025 semester. Approximately seven minutes after College-1 security personnel reported the August 29 Post to the authorities, law enforcement officers from multiple agencies converged on College-1's campus and directed the evacuation of all College-1 students and their families, along with College-1 staff, from Davison House. After establishing a secure perimeter, law enforcement officers verified that there was no active shooter at the scene and conducted a sweep of Davison House for explosives, with the assistance of K-9 units.

7. As set forth in greater detail below, I have learned that NIGEL TRENH, the defendant, authored the August 29 Post and posted it anonymously on the College-1 community page hosted by Fizz. The false information TRENH conveyed over the Internet resulted in the evacuation of Davison House and led to law enforcement's response and investigation, which ultimately confirmed that the August 29 Post was a hoax.

8. NIGEL TRENH, the defendant, was previously an enrolled undergraduate student at College-1. Based on a review of records obtained from College-1 and discussions with College-1 personnel and other law enforcement officers, I understand that TRENH first matriculated at College-1 in or about August 2021. On or about November 23, 2021, College-1 suspended TRENH for the Spring 2022 semester for a drug-related disciplinary infraction. TRENH returned to College-1 for the Fall 2022 semester in approximately August 2022 but was placed on medical leave for the Fall 2023 semester in approximately August 2023. TRENH returned to complete the Spring and Fall 2024 semesters at College-1 but elected to be placed on leave again in advance of the Spring 2025 semester, which was to begin in approximately January 2025.

9. Since electing to be placed on leave in lieu of returning to College-1 for the Spring 2025 semester, NIGEL TRENH the defendant, has sent repeated, unsolicited, and at times threatening communications to numerous College-1 staff members via multiple channels of communication, including WhatsApp message and e-mail. From my review of those messages in the course of this investigation, and my discussions with other members of law enforcement and with witnesses, I have learned the following, in substance and in part:

a. During the period from approximately June 2025 through approximately August 12, 2025, TRENH sent at least approximately 1,300 WhatsApp messages to a College-1 staff member who served as the coach of a club sports team on which TRENH played while TRENH was enrolled at College-1 ("Coach-1"). Certain of TRENH's WhatsApp messages to Coach-1 contained offensive, threatening, or harassing content. For example, on or about August 3, 2025, TRENH wrote, "Let me know where you get buried and I'll go dig up ur grave and piss in it when war breaks out."<sup>1</sup> Approximately 15 minutes after that message, TRENH wrote, "I'll see when you die so I make sure to 100% dig and piss in your grave." Approximately eight minutes after that message, TRENH wrote, "Ima find your casket 6 feet under and sing who lives in a casket under the sea. It's gonna be a golden shower once I desecrate your body. I hope you sleep well at night." Coach-1 did not respond to these messages from TRENH.

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<sup>1</sup> Portions of communications attributed to NIGEL TRENH, the defendant, are included in this Complaint as written by him and, therefore, may include typographical or grammatical errors.

b. Among TRENH's WhatsApp messages to Coach-1 were various communications expressing TRENH's frustration with and resentment of College-1. For example, on or about August 8, 2025, TRENH wrote, "Of course [College-1] isn't helping the first generation, low income person. I won't be back in America for 7 years, liberal arts colleges are scams and shouldn't exist." Coach-1 did not respond to this message from TRENH.

c. Certain WhatsApp messages from TRENH to Coach-1 also featured language that alluded to or expressly referenced on-campus violence, particularly school shootings. For example, on or about August 9, 2025, TRENH wrote, "Can I be transgender and be called she/her and be also identify as a school shooter?" Approximately three minutes later, TRENH wrote, "In America I get the freedom to identify as a Latina but also I want to be known as a shooter and freedom of speech." Coach-1 did not respond to these messages from TRENH.

d. During this period, TRENH sent at least approximately hundreds of communications containing similar or identical language and themes to other College-1 personnel, primarily via TRENH's College-1 e-mail account. For example, on or about August 9, 2025, TRENH wrote an e-mail to a College-1 administrator ("Administrator-1") that read, in part, "Can I be transgender and be called she/her and be also identify as a school/shooter? I think it'll be the best idea to bring transgender introspection."

e. On or about August 16, 2025, TRENH wrote an e-mail to Administrator-1 and another College-1 administrator ("Administrator-2") that read, in part, "If I don't get my grandpas ashes and that ceramic pot back I'm going to go on a rampage."

10. From discussion with law enforcement personnel, review of law enforcement records, and my participation in this investigation, I learned that, on or about August 16, 2025, College-1 reported the threatening statements and communications made by the defendant, NIGEL TRENH, to local law enforcement. At that time, a College-1 representative relayed to police in sum and substance that College-1 was concerned that TRENH might attempt to return to campus. I understand the following, in substance and in part, regarding events following College-1's police report on or about August 16, 2025:

a. On or about August 19, 2025, Administrator-1 transmitted a letter to NIGEL TRENH, the defendant, via an online portal regarding a disciplinary matter related to TRENH's communications to College-1 personnel. TRENH continued to send repeated communications to College-1 personnel after the transmittal of this letter. For example, and without limitation:

i. On or about August 19, 2025, shortly after receiving the letter from Administrator-1, TRENH e-mailed Administrator-1 directly to ask, in substance and in part: "Can you clear my credit? You didn't cover my medical leave and you costed me all my bills."

ii. On or about August 23, 2025, TRENH sent an e-mail to Administrator-1, along with another College-1 administrator ("Administrator-3") and the President of College-1, stating in substance and in part, that "I want my medical debts cleared," and asking the recipients to "Let me know, if you can expel a disabled student and clear my credit."

b. On or about August 28, 2025, another College-1 administrator (“Administrator-4”) sent TRENH an e-mail proposing to arrange a Zoom call to discuss the disciplinary letter sent by Administrator-1. From discussions with law enforcement personnel and review of law enforcement records, I understand that College-1 information technology personnel determined that TRENH’s College-1 e-mail account accessed Administrator-4’s e-mail as many as 150 times in a period of approximately six hours on or about August 28, 2025. On or about the same day, TRENH sent at least approximately 25 e-mails to Administrator-1, including an e-mail in which TRENH stated, in substance and in part, “you know if you cross me I’ll cross you,” followed by an e-mail in which TRENH stated, in substance and in part, “I’m on pure defense right now but if you want me to offense come after me,” followed by an e-mail in which TRENH pasted an excerpt from a piece of media coverage regarding a shooting at a school church in or around Minneapolis, Minnesota, which had occurred approximately one day before.

c. On or about the next day, the August 29 Post referencing a bomb and an “active shooter” appeared on College-1’s Fizz “community page.”

11. From discussion with law enforcement personnel, review of law enforcement and public source records, and my participation in this investigation, I have learned the following, in substance and in part, regarding the social media application Fizz, on which the August 29 Post was published:

a. Fizz describes itself as “a private and authenticated platform for colleges.” To register for an account on Fizz, a prospective user must supply and verify access to an e-mail address associated with a particular college’s e-mail domain. After providing and validating their college e-mail address, college students can use the Fizz platform to interact with other users who provided and validated e-mail addresses from the same college or university, including by publishing text posts, images, or polls on a virtual campus message board hosted by Fizz and accessible only to users associated with a particular school.

b. Users can post content on Fizz in an anonymous manner that does not identify them to other Fizz users but Fizz maintains records that associate user activity with the particular Fizz account responsible for such activity. Fizz also maintains records associating each Fizz account with the verified college e-mail address and phone number supplied by the user to register the account.

c. On or about August 29, 2025, law enforcement personnel sought and obtained information from Fizz on an emergency basis regarding the account responsible for the August 29 Post. The information provided by Fizz in response to law enforcement’s request indicated that the August 29 Post was posted by the Fizz account registered to the College-1 e-mail address assigned to and historically used by NIGEL TRENH, the defendant. Fizz also provided law enforcement with the phone number associated with the Fizz account responsible for the August 29 Post. Based on records provided by College-1, the phone number associated with that Fizz account is the same phone number listed for TRENH in College-1’s student employment records.

12. From discussion with law enforcement personnel, review of law enforcement records, and my participation in this investigation, I am aware that, on or about August 29, 2025, NIGEL TRENH, the defendant, traveled on an international flight from Hong Kong to the United States, disembarking at Los Angeles International Airport at approximately 10:42 p.m. Eastern time/7:42 p.m. Pacific time. After disembarking, TRENH was questioned by federal law enforcement officers regarding, among other topics, the August 29 Post and TRENH's patterns of WhatsApp and e-mail communications with College-1 staff and administrators, as summarized above. I understand the following, in substance and in part, regarding TRENH's statements to law enforcement in that interview:

a. TRENH confirmed, in substance and in part, that he had sent repeated WhatsApp messages to Coach-1 and e-mail communications to College-1 staff, including Administrator-1 and Administrator-2, as described above.

b. TRENH confirmed, in substance and in part, that he published the August 29 Post on Fizz. TRENH denied, in substance and in part, that he intended to induce an emergency response or the evacuation of the Davison House, claiming instead, in substance and in part, that the August 29 Post referred to a large defecation in a Davison House restroom and that the reference to an "active shooter on campus" was "just trolling."

c. TRENH explained, in substance and in part, that, through his communications to College-1 personnel and on Fizz, he was hoping to prompt College-1 to expel him outright because TRENH believed that College-1 would then "clear" TRENH's outstanding balance owed.

13. Following law enforcement's interview of NIGEL TRENH, the defendant, on or about August 29, 2025, TRENH resumed sending e-mails to College-1 staff and administrators. Based on my review of those communications, as well as my conversations with other law enforcement officers and College-1 personnel, I am aware that TRENH referenced the August 29 Post and his interview with federal law enforcement officers in certain of these e-mails. For example, during the period beginning on or about August 30, 2025 at approximately 6:12 a.m. through on or about September 1, 2025 at approximately 3:52 p.m., TRENH sent Administrator-1 at least approximately 36 e-mails. In these e-mails, TRENH made the following statements to Administrator-1, in substance and in part and without limitation:

a. On or about August 30, 2025, at approximately 6:17 a.m., TRENH wrote: "I meant to say someone took a shit in davi and it got misinterpreted and I have to be friends with transgenders so they don't do anything crazy."

b. On or about August 30, 2025 at approximately 6:38 a.m., TRENH wrote: "Was I reported because the transgender shooter came from [College-1] and [College-1] is breeding the ideology because I don't know why I got in trouble and I thought there was the first amendment online?"

c. On or about August 30, 2025 at approximately 6:49 a.m., TRENH wrote: "Did you call the feds for me to tell them [College-1] was 100% influencing the shooter?"

d. On or about September 1, 2025, at approximately 7:44 a.m., TRENH wrote: “Just expel me and clear my credit? I didn’t get the service I wanted and this is America so I don’t have to pay ima return it.”

14. Based upon discussions with other law enforcement officers and College-1 personnel, and from reviewing financial records obtained from College-1, I understand that NIGEL TRENH, the defendant, currently owes College-1 an outstanding balance of approximately \$6,446.

WHEREFORE, I respectfully request that a warrant be issued for the arrest of NIGEL TRENH, the defendant, and that he be arrested, and imprisoned or bailed, as the case may be.

/s/ William Laham (signed by VR with permission)  
WILLIAM LAHAM  
Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to me through the transmission of this Affidavit  
by reliable electronic means (Microsoft Teams) pursuant to  
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 41(d)(3) and 4.1, this  
17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025

  
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THE HONORABLE VICTORIA REZNIK  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK