

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
for the  
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

United States of America  
v.

)  
) Case No. 7:10-1121  
)

Michael Stephen Bowden  
*Defendant(s)*

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

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

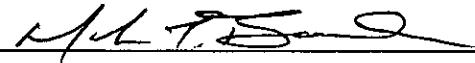
On or about the date of November 16, 2010, in the county of Greenville in the District of South Carolina, the defendant violated:

*Code Section*  
18 U.S.C. § 871

*Offense Description*  
Threatening to take the life of, kidnap, or inflict bodily harm upon the President of the United States

This criminal complaint is based on these facts: *See attached affidavit.*

- Continued on the attached sheet.



*Complainant's signature*

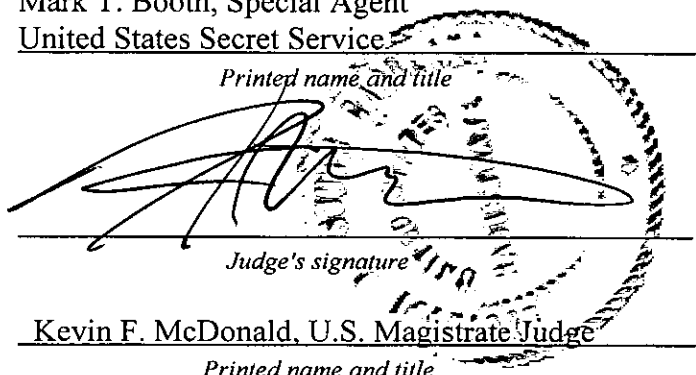
Mark T. Booth, Special Agent  
United States Secret Service

*Printed name and title*

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: November 18, 2010

City and state: Greenville, South Carolina



*Judge's signature*

Kevin F. McDonald, U.S. Magistrate Judge

*Printed name and title*

## AFFIDAVIT

Your affiant, Mark T. Booth, Special Agent, U.S. Secret Service, Department of Homeland Security, first being duly sworn, deposes and states that:

I am a Special Agent with the United States Secret Service, and have been so employed for over 12 years. I am currently assigned to the Greenville Resident Office of the Secret Service, and I am responsible for investigating crimes that violate Federal laws.

I am familiar with the information contained in this affidavit based on: (i) direct knowledge of each of the following facts or upon information provided to me by other law enforcement officers; (ii) an interview conducted with the suspect; and (iii) information received from third parties, such as family members and friends of the suspect.

In conjunction with my official duties as a Special Agent of the United States Secret Service, I became involved in an investigation regarding threatening statements that were directed at the President of the United States, Barack H. Obama.

This case originated on November 17, 2010, upon receipt of a telephone call from Special Agent (SA) Iris Hughes, of the U.S. Secret Service, Greenville, SC office. SA Hughes informed me a phone call had been received from the Veterans Administration clinic in Spartanburg, SC, that on November 16, 2010, a patient, Michael Stephen Bowden, had made threatening statements directed at the President of the United States, Barack H. Obama.

On November 16, 2010, Michael Stephen Bowden went to the Veterans Administration clinic in Spartanburg, SC, for a routine check-up. During the exam, Primary Care Nurse McCall inquired of Mr. Bowden if he had any suicidal thoughts. Bowden responded, "yes, I would like to shoot the President then myself." Bowden was then seen by Mental Health Nurse Smith. Nurse Smith spoke to Mr. Bowden inquiring if he had any suicidal thoughts or wished to harm anyone. Bowden responded he "was thinking of traveling to Washington, DC, to shoot the President (Obama) because he is not doing enough to help African Americans."

Nurse McCall stated Bowden had rated positive during a suicide screening in April 2010, conducted by the Veterans Administration clinic.


On November 17, 2010, SA Thomas Griffin, SA Iris Hughes, and I responded to the residence of Michael Stephen Bowden, in Woodruff, SC, to conduct an interview. Mr. Bowden lives with his wife, and son. Prior to the interview, I advised Bowden of his Miranda Rights, which he acknowledged and waived. From the time we arrived Mr. Bowden acknowledged his threatening statements and made no denial of having stated them. Mr. Bowden elaborated in a sworn, written statement that "if I had the opportunity I would shoot him (President Obama) myself," and "if I had the opportunity to put (President) Obama against the wall and shoot him, I would."

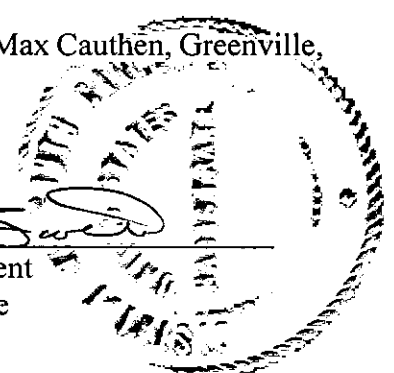
Mr. Bowden admitted to telling the Veterans Administration clinic nurse he had suicidal thoughts at times, and if he could kill anyone "I would kill, if possible, the President (Obama), for what he has done to this country."

During a consensual search of the Bowden residence, 3 semi-automatic handguns, and a semi-automatic rifle were located within the immediate area of Mr. Bowden's bed. All of the weapons were fully loaded, with rounds in the firing chamber, and spare ammunition in close proximity. In the adult son's bedroom, a short distance down the hall, we located 9 rifles, 2 shotguns, and a handgun. Additionally, a loaded, short-barrel, shotgun with pistol grip was located near the front door of the home.

Based upon the above referenced facts, it is believed that probable cause exists for an arrest warrant for Michael Stephen Bowden for violation of Title 18, U.S.C., Section 871, Threats Against the President.

On November 17, 2010, the facts of this case were discussed with AUSA Max Cauthen, Greenville, SC, and he authorized prosecution of Bowden.

  
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Mark T. Booth, Special Agent  
United States Secret Service



Date: November 18, 2010