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AFFIDAVIT

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CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
TOLEDO

Affidavit in support of Criminal Complaint against RANDOLPH LINN

I, Victoria Erickson, a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), United States Department of Justice (DOJ), being duly sworn and deposed, state the following:

1. I am a Special Agent with the FBI and have been so employed for approximately 28 years. While I have been employed by the FBI, I have conducted and assisted with numerous federal and state criminal investigations and prosecutions related to civil rights violations and the use of fire or explosives to commit any federal felony. I have also received hundreds of hours of law enforcement, tactical and investigative training from the FBI, state and local enforcement agencies, as well as on the job training. As a result, I have gained experience in performing interviews of witnesses, reviewing evidence, and executing warrants. Also, I have sought advice from other federal and state law enforcement officers and agents more experienced than myself in civil rights investigations and investigations relating to the use of fire or explosive to commit a federal felony. Through these methods, I have become familiar with federal civil rights violations and the use of fire and explosives in the commission of same.

2. I am an investigative and law enforcement officer of the United States within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 533 and 18 U.S.C. § 3052 and am authorized to investigate violations of laws of the United States and to execute warrants issued under the authority of the United States.

**BASIS FOR KNOWLEDGE**

3. The facts set forth below are based upon information I have obtained from witnesses, victims, informants, documents and other law enforcement personnel, to include joint-

investigators with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Perrysburg Township Police Department, and the State of Ohio, Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal, and information obtained from additional sources. I have also reviewed surveillance video recordings and still photographs of those recordings. I have not set out all of the information I have learned during the course of this investigation, but only that necessary to show that there is probable cause to believe that RANDOLPH LINN: (a) intentionally defaced, damaged, or destroyed any religious real property because of the religious character of that property, or attempted to do so, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 247(a)(1); and (b) used fire or an explosive to commit a felony which may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(h)(1).

#### **THE CRIMINAL OFFENSES**

4. The facts set forth below establish probable cause that RANDOLPH LINN: (a) intentionally defaced, damaged, or destroyed any religious real property because of the religious character of that property, or attempted to do so, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 247(a)(1); and (b) used fire or an explosive to commit a felony which may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(h)(1), in that, on September 30, 2012, LINN travelled by car from his home in Indiana to Ohio, where he intentionally set a fire using a plastic container that contained gasoline, that he placed in a second-floor prayer room of the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo ("Islamic Center"), which is a religious place of worship.

### **FACTS SUPPORTING PROBABLE CAUSE**

5. On September 30, 2012, a waterflow alarm notification from The Islamic Center, located on Scheider Road in Perrysburg, Ohio, was reported to the Islamic Center's security service. The Islamic Center's security service notified the Perrysburg Township, Ohio Fire Department at approximately 4:58 p.m. Fire Department officials and law enforcement officers responded to the Islamic Center. Upon entering the Islamic Center, officials and officers went to a second-floor prayer room where they discovered remnants of a red, plastic gas can in the middle of the prayer room. The prayer carpet underneath the gas can had been burned. The fire was extinguished by a sprinkler system before officials and officers arrived. There was significant damage to the prayer room and other areas of the Islamic Center from smoke and due to the activation of the sprinkler system. Officials and officers determined that the fire appeared to have been intentionally set.

6. Officials and officers obtained surveillance footage from the Islamic Center's indoor and outdoor surveillance cameras. Upon reviewing the surveillance footage, officials and officers observed a red, SUV-type vehicle enter the parking lot of the Islamic Center at approximately 4:11 p.m. Officials also were able to see on the surveillance footage the image of an older, white male, approximately 5'10" to 6'01", dressed in blue jeans and a camouflage sweatshirt and a camouflage stocking cap who approached the front door of the Islamic Center. The male was observed pulling his sleeve over his hand and reaching for the door.

7. Surveillance video further revealed that the male entered the Islamic Center. The male was thereafter observed walking around the inside of the Islamic Center carrying what appeared to be a firearm and a gas can. The male was seen at the bottom of a set of stairs leading to the second-floor prayer room and at that time was still carrying the firearm and gas can. There were no cameras on those stairs or in the second-floor prayer room. The male left camera range

and when he returned within view, he was seen leaving the building without the gas can. The male appeared to be still carrying the firearm when he left the Islamic Center. From the video surveillance, the firearm appeared to be a revolver.

8. The male was observed leaving the Islamic Center at approximately 4:54 p.m. on September 30, 2012.

9. On October 1, 2012, law enforcement officials released still frames from the September 30, 2012, surveillance video to the media. These frames included pictures of the older, white male wearing the camouflage sweatshirt and jeans, and the red, SUV-type vehicle. These still frames were broadcast and published by local media.

10. On October 2, 2012, an identified woman contacted law enforcement officers and identified the male in the still frames as a person she knows named RANDOLPH LINN. This identified woman stated that she knows LINN and members of his family. She stated that LINN is an ex-Marine who has recently made anti-Muslim comments. Specifically, the woman stated that LINN has recently complained about the international Muslim community's reaction to the recent anti-Muslim video published on YouTube; recent attacks on United States' embassies; and the deaths of U.S. military personnel in the Middle East. She further stated that LINN has complained that Muslims in this country get a "free pass." The woman recognized the sweatshirt as one that LINN owned. She further stated that he had purchased an American-made, red SUV-type vehicle approximately three months ago. The vehicle she described is similar to the vehicle observed on the surveillance footage from the Islamic Center. Additionally, the identified woman reported that LINN had multiple firearms located at his residence.

11. Law enforcement agents confirmed through a review of Indiana Driver's License records from the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles, that LINN's current address is 6488 County Road 56, St. Joe, Indiana 46785. BMV records further confirm that LINN has a red, SUV-type

vehicle registered to him at the County Road address, more particularly a Chevy Sonic identified by Indiana license plate number 479TVG, and VIN 1G1JD6SB8C4186984.

12. An arrest warrant was issued out of state criminal court in Wood County, Ohio for the arrest of LINN. Agents were able to arrest LINN at his place of employment in Allen County, Indiana on October 2, 2012. At the time of his arrest, LINN's vehicle, the Chevy Sonic identified by Indiana license plate number 479TVG, was parked in the employee lot. The vehicle was towed to the Indiana State Police post.

13. At the time of his arrest after being advised his Miranda rights, LINN stated that he had three firearms in his parked vehicle. While in a police car en route to the police station, LINN also volunteered the following statement: "Fuck those Muslims."

14. I have also learned that on August 25, 2012, LINN purchased two handguns from a local federal firearms dealer/store in Allen County, Fort Wayne. Both of the firearms that LINN purchased that day were revolvers according to firearm records, those being ATF Form 4473s.

15. On October 2, 2012, agents were at the residence, located at 6488 County Road 56, St. Joe, Indiana, and met a woman who identified herself as LINN's wife. She indicated that LINN recently made several anti-Muslim statements to her and in her presence.

16. Additionally, on October 2, 2012, agents executed a federal search warrant on LINN's residence, located at 6488 County Road 56, St. Joe, Indiana, and on October 3, 2012, agents executed a federal search warrant on LINN'S Chevy Sonic vehicle. Agents seized the following items: a camouflage sweatshirt and cap, which appear to match the sweatshirt and cap I observed on the September 30, 2012 video surveillance; firearms; electronic storage devices; and other items authorized by the federal search warrant.

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17. I have learned that LINN's conduct affected interstate or foreign commerce in that he used a motor vehicle, that being the Chevy Sonic observed on the surveillance video, to travel from Indiana to Ohio on September 30, 2012. I have further learned that it appears that gasoline was the accelerant used to start the fire in the second-floor prayer room of the Islamic Center, which was likely transported across state lines prior to being purchased by LINN in either Indiana or Ohio.

18. Attached hereto is the Certificate of the Assistant Attorney General pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 247 (e).

**CONCLUSION**

For the above stated reasons, I respectfully request that a Criminal Complaint charging RANDOLPH LINN with: (a) intentionally defacing, damaging, and destroying any religious real property because of the religious character of that property, and attempting to do so, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 247(a)(1); and (b) using fire and explosives to commit a felony which may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(h)(1), be accepted by this Court, and that this Court issue an arrest warrant for RANDOLPH LINN.

SA Victoria Erickson  
Victoria Erickson  
Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn and subscribed before me this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2012.

Dervelis K. Armstrong  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
Toledo, Ohio