



Woman Charged with Alleged Hoax for Making Anonymous Call to Airline Implicating Her Former Boyfriend and His Companions in Terrorist Threat

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 7:28 AM November 28, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on November 23, 2011 released the following:

“A Temple City woman was taken into custody this morning on charges that she provided false information suggesting that French visitors, one of whom she had been romantically involved, posed a threat to a plane they were scheduled to board at LAX, announced Steven Martinez, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI in Los Angeles, and André Biotte Jr., the United States Attorney in Los Angeles.

Lizet Sariol, 45, of Temple City, was charged in a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles with providing false and misleading information; specifically, fabricating a terrorist threat to United Airlines (UA) on September 25th, 2011, a violation of Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 1038.

The complaint alleges that Sariol intentionally conveyed false and misleading information to a customer service representative at United Airlines (UA) when she made an anonymous phone call to the UA call center based in Detroit, Michigan. During the call, Sariol advised that a woman and two men with whom she was acquainted, as well as two others not further identified, posed a threat to a flight they were scheduled to board later that day. When questioned further by the UA representative, Sariol advised that she received a threatening text message, ostensibly from one of the men, which led her to believe that the group posed a threat. Sariol further advised that the individuals were “foreigners” and that she intended to alert officials at the airport about the threat.

The United Airlines representative considered the information credible and UA took immediate action by contacting government officials. Representatives

with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) confirmed the itineraries of the passengers identified by Sariol for the flight in question, and an investigation into the terrorist threat was initiated by the FBI. When the UA representative was interviewed, he advised investigators that the call made him “real nervous” and that the context in which the threat was conveyed by Sariol led him to believe that a bomb could be on the plane.

Prior to the flight’s departure, FBI investigators located the men whose names Sariol provided upon their arrival for their scheduled flight at LAX. The men explained they had been vacationing in the U.S. since July 2011 and that, during that time, one of them engaged in a romantic relationship with Sariol. The man further explained that he ended the relationship with Sariol hours the night before. The man told investigators that he believed Sariol incriminated him and his companions because she was unhappy about the relationship ending.

Investigators determined that Sariol sent a series of text messages telephonically and to the Facebook accounts of the men expressing her displeasure with their actions toward her, and advising of her intention to report them to law enforcement for unspecified activity. Sariol implied that she reported the men to the FBI and that she “hoped” they had good attorneys. Through her text messages, Sariol suggested that her close ties with law enforcement would ensure the men would be arrested and would not be allowed to return to the U.S. In one message, Sariol texted the following, “Already called the airlines considered you all terrorists including annie,” according to the complaint.

FBI investigators determined the travelers implicated by Sariol did not pose a threat to the airline and subsequently interviewed Sariol. During the interview,

Sariol admitted to investigators that some of her messages may have been a mistake. Sariol acknowledged that her anonymous phone call to United Airlines was made in anger and was meant to sound suspicious, according to the complaint.

Sariol surrendered to the FBI this morning and appeared before a United States Magistrate in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles. Bond was set at \$20,000.

If convicted of the charge, Sariol faces a statutory maximum sentence of five years in federal prison.

This investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the assistance of TSA and United Airlines. Sariol is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney’s Office.

A criminal complaint contains allegations that a defendant has committed a crime. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.”

Douglas McNabb – McNabb Associates, P.C.’s

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Douglas McNabb and other members of the U.S. law firm practice and write and/or report extensively on matters involving Federal Criminal Defense, INTERPOL Red Notice Removal, International Extradition and OFAC SDN Sanctions Removal.

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Enron case was much bigger than FBI agent first thought

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

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The Houston Chronicle on November 27, 2011 released the following:

By TOM FOWLER, HOUSTON CHRONICLE

When Mike Anderson launched the FBI's investigation of Enron's collapse in early December 2001, he thought assigning a couple of agents to the case would be a good start.

"I knew it was going to be a big case," said Anderson, assistant special agent in charge of the white-collar crime group in Houston. "But I think I was a little naïve about how big."

Within a few weeks, the investigation had exploded into a national task force with dozens of agents, prosecutors and other specialists working on it from coast to coast.

"It was the biggest FBI investigation at the time and remains one of the most complex in the history of the bureau," Anderson said.

The investigation started off looking at three areas: the LJM partnerships that Enron Chief Financial Officer Andrew Fastow created to help Enron move assets off the balance sheet; the way the energy trading business's reserves were used to cover losses in other units; and possible insider trading.

'No smoking gun'

Over time, new areas of interest popped up as investigators dug deeper and more witnesses came forward to talk, Anderson said. But it was never simple.



"There was no smoking gun in this case," Anderson said. "It was more subtle. They didn't get in a room and say, 'You do this, you do that, and this is how we'll cook the books.'"

There were many twists and turns in the investigation, but Anderson remembers particularly potent testimony came from Ben Glisan – the former treasurer who pleaded guilty to a single charge and later testified in the trial of top executives Ken Lay and Jeff Skilling – and David Delainey, the former Enron Energy Services executive.

Anderson boils down the problems at Enron to four issues: overly aggressive accounting that reported financial results Enron had not achieved; a corporate culture that gave too much leeway to youth over experience; leadership failures; and a flawed business model that believed Enron could enter any market it wanted to and become the dominant player.

The company's accounting techniques generally weren't illegal, Anderson said, but they were aggressive.

"When you use the techniques to report results you really didn't achieve, that's

when it becomes fraud," Anderson said.

"When the financial statements so grossly diverge from the true economic condition of the company, that's fraud."

In time, criminal intent

Most of the people who worked at Enron were hardworking people who were doing the right thing, Anderson said.

"Of the people that were convicted, I think none of them went to work thinking they were going to commit fraud. But did they eventually have criminal intent? Yes."

The FBI continues to make corporate crime a priority, Anderson said. The fiscal year that ended in September saw the most indictments and convictions in the history of the bureau's corporate fraud section.

"I'm hopeful that we demonstrated to Wall Street and business executives that we will hold people accountable for their actions," Anderson said."

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