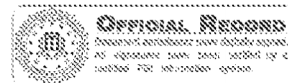


I have re-entered redacted names etc, that I am sure of, in the redaction boxes.

The last paragraph makes it clear that the conclusion of the investigating Special Agent is that Kent Madin's activities were consistent with journalism and there was no evidence of stalking, harassment, threat, etc.

316A-SU-6074104 Serial 6



UNCLASSIFIED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Electronic Communication

Title: (U) USAO declination decision

Date: 01/19/2016

From: SALT LAKE CITY
SU-CY1

Contact: [Redacted]

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Approved By: SSA [Redacted]

Drafted By: [Redacted]

Case ID #: 316A-SU-6074104

(U) KENT MADIN;

[Redacted]

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VICTIMS;
CYBER CRIME - INTERNET EXTORTION

Synopsis: (U) To submit to the case file an email containing USAO declination to prosecute.

Full Investigation Initiated: 01/28/2015

Enclosure(s): Enclosed are the following items:

1. (U) e-mail from AUSA [Redacted]

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Details:

The attached e-mail message contains the decision of the United States Attorney's Office, District of Montana, declining prosecution of the captioned matter.

◆◆

UNCLASSIFIED

From: [redacted] (USAMT)
To: [redacted] (SU) (FBI)
Cc: [redacted] (USAMT); [redacted] (USAMT)
Subject: RE: Kent Madin case
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 12:45:17 PM
Attachments: image001.gif

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[redacted]

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I have reviewed the summary of the case you provided below. The United States Attorney's Office is in agreement with your assessment that the case should be declined. It is our assessment that there is not sufficient evidence to support prosecution for a criminal offense. Indeed, as you highlight, it appears from your investigation that Mr. Madin was engaged in protected free speech activities. Accordingly, the USAO is declining prosecution and we will be closing our file. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

[redacted]

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[redacted]

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication may contain law enforcement sensitive, privileged attorney/client communications or work product, and is not subject to disclosure. It is solely for the use of the intended recipients. Unauthorized interception, review, use or disclosure is prohibited. If you believe that you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately, and permanently delete the e-mail, any attachments, and all copies from your computer.

From: [redacted] (SU) (FBI) [mailto:[redacted]]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2015 4:04 PM
To: [redacted] (USAMT)
Subject: Kent Madin case

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Hi

[redacted]

Finally getting you an update on the Kent Madin case. I finished going through all the information and evidence the complainants submitted to Bozeman PD and I interviewed Madin at the end of May, then I was out of the office almost all of June for various trainings. So I apologize for the delay on this.

In my interview with Madin, it became apparent, as with most situations, that there were 2 sides to the story and not everything represented by the complainants was as it seemed. This might get a little long, but here are the details on what I've learned:

Madin began following the activities of complainant [Ripley Davenport] which [Davenport] publicized on the Internet, in late 2009 or early 2010. Madin had set up a Google alert to notify him of news and information online regarding travel and adventure in Mongolia. Madin owns a company called Boojum Expeditions specializing in adventure travel and tourism in Mongolia, so this makes sense. From that Google alert, Madin learned that [Davenport] who claimed to be an experienced explorer and adventurer, was planning a [solo trek across Mongolia] had created a website to publicize his planning, preparation and the event itself. As Madin followed [Davenport's] activities on the website, he began to notice things that seemed odd or incongruous, according to Madin's own experience with adventure travel. Madin began to doubt some of [Davenport's] claims, or at least the depth of experience [Davenport] claimed to have. After a series of mishaps, [the solo trek across Mongolia] failed. [Davenport] claimed on his website that it was due to an equipment failure.

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The following year in 2011, [Davenport] created a Facebook page and a website to publicize and organize a [commercial tourist trek in Mongolia]. For around \$7,000 a piece, people could sign up for the expedition lead by [Davenport]. Again, Madin followed the public proceedings online and felt something was off about him. Eventually, several of [redacted] clients left the expedition part way through. Some of them contacted Madin, whom they had become aware of through the public discussion on the Facebook page, and shared with him their concerns about [Davenport's] competence and why they had left the expedition. They also shared with him the preparation package and materials [Davenport] had sent to them prior to the expedition, which included a bio section where [Davenport] explained his accomplishments, background and experience with adventure travel and [redacted]. Madin began researching [Davenport's] online personae, curious to what degree his claims and accomplishments could be substantiated.

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One of [Davenport's] claims was that in [1998] he had crossed [The Speergebiet in Namibia] starting in [Orangemund, Namibia] and ending at the [Angolan Border]. [Orangemund is a company town owned by Namdeb, diamond company] and it exists solely to house and service [Namdeb] employees. The town and surrounding area are closed to outsiders and aptrolled by armed guards. A permit and background check are required to for anyone else to enter the town or access the region. Madin contacted the head of security for [Namdeb] who had worked in that position since [1994] and learned that there was no record that [Davenport] was ever there or had obtained a permit to enter the town or region. Madin also learned that camels are not native to the area, and would have to be transported from South Africa. There is no natural fodder for camels or water along [the Namibian Coast] and the only person on record who actually obtained a permit and made a trip with camels across [redacted] brought them from South Africa and made the trek under escort from [Namdeb] Security with fodder and supply drops provided along the way. Madin also said that [Davenport] in relating the expedition to one of his clients on [Gobi 2011 expedition] had said he had to shoot one of his camels on the [Namibia] expedition. So if [Davenport's] various claims are true, he would have had to import 3 camels, a firearm, and enough fodder and water to make an unsupported 82 day desert crossing into a heavily guarded and restricted area without being noticed. Madin felt the only logical conclusion was that [Davenport] had made the whole thing up. Madin found another of [Davenport's] claims, to have crossed the [Karakum Desert] solo and unassisted in [Turkmenistan] to be equally unlikely due to difficulties with the local [redacted] government and visitor visa controls in [1998].

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The more Madin researched, the more he became convinced that [Davenport] had used the Internet to create a false background and bogus accomplishments which were serving as a launch pad for a career as an adventurer; securing enough credibility to obtain sponsorships and public speaking engagements. Madin said he thought this at least would make an interesting news story, particularly in the adventure and tourism travel niche. So in late 2011 or 2012, Madin said he decided to contact [Davenport] via the email publicly provided on [Davenport's] website, in order to ask some clarifying questions about his claims. Madin said his intent was never to threaten, harass, abuse, or annoy [Davenport] but to simply ask questions and let [Davenport] explain the apparent inconsistencies and contradictions in his claims, or expose him as a fraud. [Davenport] declined to respond to Madin's questions, and began circulating a letter among his contacts online warning them against talking to Madin and accusing him of being a deranged cyberstalker. Having been forewarned in this manner, many people whom Madin contacted reacted negatively to his questions.

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Among the people who received [Davenport's] letter were [Cuchullaine O'Reilly and Basha O'Reilly] owners of the Long Riders Guild. [redacted] Madin came in contact with [O'Reilly] through a different online venue. [O'Reilly] was someone Madin was aware of through the international equestrian circles and had not previously had any doubts about [O'Reilly's] professional claims. Madin said in mid [redacted] an equestrian expert and explorer, wrote an essay online about the need for a way to [insure integrity in exploration] in the explorer community. Madin wrote [O'Reilly] an email supporting the idea, and expressing his opinions that it may be hard to keep the pool of information and advisors to such a process free from contamination. As a case in point, Madin mentioned to [O'Reilly] his concerns about [Davenport] [redacted] who had also commented online about [O'Reilly's] essay. Madin was surprised when [O'Reilly] responded that he already knew Madin had been stalking and harassing [Davenport] and asked Madin not to contact him again. Madin thought it was odd that [O'Reilly] would be so closed to questions about [Davenport] and began to look into some of [O'Reilly's] claims and accomplishments. Madin said he found inconsistencies in statements, blog posts, and articles about [O'Reilly] on the Internet. Madin said he found the same regarding [Basha O'Reilly] [redacted] and also an equestrian expert and explorer. Since [O'Reilly] had asked Madin not to contact him, Madin sent an email to [Basha] asking questions about some of the expeditions and solo rides she had made, and some inconsistencies in her claims. [Basha] responded in a manner similar to [O'Reilly] refusing to address any of his questions and becoming indignant that he would question the accuracy or veracity of her claims.

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Madin has published online or otherwise provided documentation of his contact with the complainants. In reading the various email exchanges provided by Madin or the complainants, I have found nothing that would support the allegations that he has been abusive, harassing, threatening, or intimidating. As far as I can tell, he has merely asked questions, and has reasonably respected people's requests that he not contact them anymore. There are instances where he has sent follow up emails, but these have only been in response to recontact from them or allegations made against him online or in other public forums. It does not appear that he has engaged in repeated contact with the intent to harass or annoy anyone. His journalistic efforts resulted in the publication of a news article about [Davenport] in Politiken, a major Danish newspaper, in [Denmark]. It appears his efforts have genuinely been in the pursuit of protected free speech and press related activity.

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Let me know if you have any questions, see anything that merits prosecution in this matter, or if the USAO wishes to decline.

Thanks,

SA [redacted]
FBI Salt Lake City Division
Bozeman Resident Agency
Desk: [redacted]
Cell:
Fax:

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