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MICHIGAN MAN INDICTED ON FEDERAL MURDER CHARGE IN MARCH BEATING DEATH OF MCC INMATE

CHICAGO – A Michigan man was indicted today on a federal charge of second-degree murder in the March beating death of an inmate at the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC), a federal prison facility in downtown Chicago. The defendant, **Jason Tolen**, was charged in a single-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury, announced Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Robert D. Grant, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. U.S. Bureau of Prisons officials at the MCC assisted in the investigation.

Tolen, 20, of Ishpeming, Mich., in the state's Upper Peninsula, was charged in the March 11 beating of Jason Katz, 32, of South Bend, Ind., who was pronounced dead the following morning at Stroger Hospital. Tolen, who is in federal custody, will be arraigned at a later date in U.S. District Court. The indictment alleges that Tolen killed Katz with "malice" but it does not allege premeditation, making the charge second-degree murder.

The government is being represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Stephen Baker and Manish Shah.

If convicted, second-degree murder carries a maximum penalty of life in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The Court, however, would determine the appropriate sentence to be imposed under the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The public is reminded that an indictment contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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