

U.S. Department of Justice

Stephen J. Murphy United States Attorney Eastern District of Michigan

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Narayan Thadani et al

TWO MEN FROM TEXAS INDICTED FOR ARRANGING MURDER-FOR-HIRE OF TROY COUPLE

Stephen J. Murphy, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, announced that Narayan Thadani and Douglas Tobar, of Houston, Texas, were indicted today by a federal grand jury on one count of the use of interstate commerce facilities in the commission of a murder-for-hire, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1958.

Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The indictment alleges that from on or about August, 2007 through March 11, 2008, THADANI and TABOR caused another person to use a facility of interstate commerce with the intent that a murder be committed for consideration. The grand jury indictment arises from charges previously outlined in a federal criminal complaint alleging that THADANI and TABOR arranged for Miguel Servando and Nelson Mendoza to travel from Texas to Michigan with the intent to murder Aasha and Brij Chhadbra of Troy, Michigan.

According to the affidavit in support of the previously filed complaint, Miguel Servando

and Nelson Mendoza were arrested by the Taylor Police Department after a traffic stop while traveling southbound on I-75. The traffic stop led to a search of the vehicle which revealed, among other things, a diagram and address of a home in Troy, Michigan, and a copy of a passport picture of a woman. The Taylor officer requested that the Troy Police Department conduct a welfare check on the home. The Troy Police Department's welfare check resulted in the discovery of the two victims, Brij and Asha Chhabra, who had been killed.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "The grand jury indictment filed today is the result of a thorough and coordinated local and federal investigation. We will pursue this prosecution assiduously to ensure that justice is done."

The penalty for the charged offense is death or life imprisonment. Thadani and Tobar are currently in the custody of the United States Marshals Service. Servando and Mendoza have been charged with first degree murder by the Oakland County Prosecutor's office and are set for trial in early September. Both Servando and Mendoza are awaiting trial in the Oakland County Jail.

United States Attorney Stephen Murphy praised the and hard work of the Taylor Police Department, the Troy Police Department, the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and Immigration Customs Enforcement for conducting an aggressive, thorough, and effective joint investigation. This multi-jurisdictional investigation serves as another example of how the public can greatly benefit from the cooperation of federal and local law enforcement agencies.

Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Roth handled the prosecution for the government.