



# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

August 27, 2004

### **TAMPA POLICE PROBATIONARY OFFICER** **INDICTED FOR THREATENING TO KILL THE PRESIDENT**

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced the arrest of JOSEPH CHIEJINA MAZAGWU, a 35 year old resident of Tampa, Florida, for making a threat against the President and making a false statement to a federal agent. MAZAGWU was indicted on the charges yesterday by a federal grand jury sitting in Tampa. If convicted, MAZAGWU faces five years' imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000 on each count. MAZAGWU was arrested this morning and will make his initial appearance in federal court this afternoon.

According to the indictment, JOSEPH CHIEJINA MAZAGWU threatened to take the life of, and to inflict bodily harm upon, the President of the United States. It is alleged that MAZAGWU made the threat against the President on July 15, 2004, the day before the President of the United States was scheduled to visit Tampa. MAZAGWU allegedly made the threat at a business in Tampa. An employee reported the incident to another officer with the Tampa Police Department. The Tampa Police Department notified the

Secret Service and the two jointly initiated an investigation. Thereafter, on July 19, 2004, JOSEPH CHIEJINA MAZAGWU made a materially false statement to a Special Agent of the United States Secret Service.

The case was investigated by the United States Secret Service, The City of Tampa Police Department and the Department of Defense, Defense Criminal Investigations Service (DCIS), and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.