



# ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
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## ATF ARRESTS LEXINGTON MAN ON SOLICITATION CHARGES

LEXINGTON, Ky. -- Special Agent in Charge Karl Stankovic, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, and U.S. Attorney Gregory F. Van Tatenhove, Eastern District of Kentucky, announced today the arrest of a Lexington man for soliciting an undercover ATF agent to burn his liquor business.

ATF agents and Lexington Division of Police officers arrested Raad R. Mesmar without incident on federal charges Feb. 14. Mesmar, 24, has been charged pursuant to a federal criminal complaint with solicitation to commit a crime of violence (18 U.S.C. 373) and damage or attempt to damage by fire a building used in interstate commerce (18 U.S.C. 844(i)). Mesmar is a co-owner of Southland Drive Liquors in Lexington.

Mesmar appeared today before U.S. Magistrate Judge J. Gregory Wehrman for his initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Lexington. He remains in custody pending his detention hearing.

If convicted, the maximum potential penalties are 20 years imprisonment, as well as a fine and a supervised release period.

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