

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	
	:	
v.	:	1:25CR396-1
	:	
MICHAEL ZECHARIAH TEDDER	:	

FACTUAL BASIS FOR A GUILTY PLEA

NOW COMES the United States of America, by Dan Bishop, United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina, through the undersigned Assistant United States Attorney, and as a factual basis under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, states as follows:

On September 10, 2025, Charlie Kirk was assassinated at Utah Valley University while speaking at a Turning Point USA event. After seeing media and online reporting about individuals disparaging Kirk, Michael Zechariah Tedder called universities and made specific threats of violence.

Georgia Institute of Technology:

On September 12, 2025 at 12:32 p.m., Tedder called Georgia Institute of Technology from Phone Number #1 (PN-1). Employee-1 (E-1) answered the phone.

<i>E-1:</i>	<i>Thank you for calling Georgia Institute of Technology. How may I help you?</i>
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Tedder: Hey yeah I was just calling to let you know if you guys didn't take down those, uh, posters of Charlie Kirk, we're gonna shoot your fucking school up.

At 12:50 p.m., after having called the University of North Texas, Tedder again called Georgia Institute of Technology from PN-1. Employee-2 (E-2) answered the phone.

E-2: (UI) Georgia Institute of Technology. How may I direct your call?

Tedder: Uh, yeah, just calling to let you know if you guys did not remove the Charlie Kirk posters, there would be a school shooting tomorrow at approximately 12:50, right now. I'm going to be aiming for the head, neck, and mouth, mouth specifically because it separates the spinal cord from the base of the skull. And I will be aiming for the upper lung cause it collapses the lung as a whole, and you get to watch them choke on their blood.

E-2: (UI)

Tedder: Goodbye nigger.

Regarding the call, E-2 explained that she felt "shook" and was "caught off guard." After the call, E-2 reported that she logged out of her system, put her head down, and cried. There is no record of either call being reported to law enforcement.

University of North Texas:

On September 12, 2025 12:48 p.m., Tedder called the University of North Texas from PN-1. Employee-3 (E-3) answered the phone.

E-3: UNT operator, how can I direct your call?

Tedder: Hey, I was just calling to let you know that if you guys do not expel [student's name redacted], I will come and shoot your fucking school up and slaughter the kids inside. No mercy...head shots, neck shots, uh heart shots, lung shots, upper lung, lower lung, upper lung preferable because it collapses the lung as a whole, and watch, I can watch them choke on their blood. So watch on that. Heil Hitler. White power. We're coming for you nigger. You fucked up nigger.

The call was reported to the University of North Texas police. The information was passed to a fusion center, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation was requested to be on standby.

University of Louisville:

On September 12, 2025 at approximately 1:00 pm, Tedder called the University of Louisville from PN-1. Employee-4 (E-4) answered the phone.

E-4: U of L information this is [name redacted]. How may I help?

Tedder: Hello?

E-4: Hello.

Tedder: Yes, I was just calling to let you guys know that you are in deep fucking danger if you don't take down those posters mocking Charlie Kirk. Your school will have, you will see fucking hell. We will bring down the love of God. We will slaughter you. You will see something of the likes of which you've never fucking seen boy. You think the devil's scary? You don't even fucking know what I can do with this AR and this AK you fucking pussy. You're gonna fucking find out bitch. Either you take it down or it will be a fucking massacre of like the which you've never fucking seen in your life. So

much blood, guts, and brains you won't even know what to fucking do. And you'll never get over it.¹

Identification and Arrest of Tedder:

The University of Louisville Police Department was notified of the above call. An officer immediately contacted AT&T, the carrier for PN-1, and explained the situation. AT&T advised that the account belonged to Tedder's stepfather and provided the approximate location of the phone, which was in Davie County. The officer contacted the Davie County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) for assistance.

On September 12, 2025, at approximately 5:30 p.m., a DCSO deputy contacted Tedder's mother and stepfather by phone. Tedder's stepfather confirmed that PN-1 is registered to him but explained that the number belonged to their 18-year-old son, Michael Zechariah Tedder. When questioned about the threatening call to the University of Louisville, Tedder's parents said that Tedder has made similar threats before. Tedder's parents listened to a recording of the call to the University of Louisville and confirmed that the caller was Tedder.

¹ Following Kirk's assassination, reports indicated that posters were displayed at the University of Louisville depicting Kirk being shot in the neck with the words "Debate This."

Deputies responded to Tedder's home. The officers arrested Tedder and seized his iPhone. The locked screen wallpaper on Tedder's phone depicted Adolf Hitler. A subsequent review of the phone found revealed several other Nazi-related images.

AT&T Call Logs:

AT&T call logs show that PN-1 was used to call the above universities at the relevant times. The number was also used to call other entities on September 11 and 12, 2025 that were in the news related to Kirk's assassination. Those entities include the University of Toronto, Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, School District of Lancaster, a business in Oxford, Mississippi, a business in Norwood, Ohio, and Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

This the 23rd day of January, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on January 23, 2026, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to the following:

Jones P. Byrd, Jr., Esq.

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