

Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
District of Montana

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Man charged with making false statements involving international terrorism

MISSOULA—A man who was arrested at a Bozeman shooting range on Wednesday after having recently traveled to Montana from New York appeared in court today on false statement and firearm charges. U.S. Attorney Kurt Alme for the District of Montana and Special Agent in Charge Paul Haertel of the FBI's Salt Lake City Field Office made the announcement.

Fabjan Alamei, 21, had an initial appearance on a criminal complaint before U.S. Magistrate Judge Jeremiah C. Lynch. The complaint charges Alamei with possession of a firearm by unlawful user of a controlled substance and with making false statements involving international terrorism.

Court documents filed in the case said law enforcement officers arrested Alamei without incident at a Bozeman shooting range. Alamei was taken into custody after he allegedly took possession of an M1A firearm he had rented.

"Fabjan Alamei recently moved to Bozeman from another state," said Paul Haertel, special agent in charge of the FBI's Salt Lake City Field Office. "We want to make it absolutely clear that Mr. Alamei has no known ties to Montana or any affiliation with the Muslim community in Bozeman," he said.

The complaint is merely an accusation and Alamei is presumed innocent until proven guilty. If convicted of the most serious crime, Alamei faces a maximum 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and three years of supervised release.

Judge Lynch ordered Alamei be detained. Alamei reserved his right to request a detention hearing at later date.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeff Starnes and Trial Attorney Rebecca Magnone, from National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section, are prosecuting the case, which was investigated by the FBI.