

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA  
SOUTH BEND DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )  
 v. ) Cause No: 3:25-CR-96-CCB  
 )  
 KAYDEN BELL )

**PETITION TO ENTER A PLEA OF GUILTY**

Pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, comes now the United States of America, by its counsel, Adam L. Mildred, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana, through Lydia T. Lucius, Assistant United States Attorney, and the defendant, Kayden Bell, and Kurt R. Earnst, as attorney for the defendant, and show the Court they have entered into a plea agreement as follows:

1. My true name is KAYDEN BELL, and I request that all proceedings against me be had in the name which I here declare to be my true name.
2. I was born in the United States of America. I have attended school, and I have the ability to read, write, and speak the English language.
3. I am represented by counsel and the name of my lawyer is Kurt R. Earnst.

4. I have received a copy of the Indictment and have read and discussed it with my lawyer, and I believe and feel that I understand every accusation made against me in this case.

5. I have told my lawyer the facts and surrounding circumstances as known to me concerning the matters mentioned in the Indictment and believe and feel that my lawyer is fully informed as to all such matters. My lawyer has since informed me and has counseled and advised with me as to the nature and cause of every accusation against me and as to any possible defenses I might have in this case.

6. I understand that I am entitled to have all of my rights which may be involved in this matter explained to me, and that I have the right to have any questions I may have answered for me.

7. I understand that I have a right to plead NOT GUILTY to any offense charged against me, and that under a plea of NOT GUILTY the Constitution guarantees me:

(a) the right to a speedy and public trial by a twelve-person jury of my peers, selected according to law, in the Northern District of Indiana, which must return a unanimous verdict of GUILTY before I can be convicted;

(b) the right to be released on reasonable bail until my trial occurs;

(c) the right to see, hear, and cross-examine all the witnesses against me at my trial;

(d) the right to use the power and process of the Court to compel the production of any evidence, including the attendance of any witnesses in my favor at my trial;

(e) the right to the assistance of counsel at every stage of the proceedings, including upon an appeal if need be;

(f) the right not to testify without prejudice; and,

(g) that in the event that I should be found GUILTY of the charge against me, I would have the right to appeal my conviction on such charge to a higher court.

8. I understand that if I plead GUILTY, I waive the right to trial by jury in any and all proceedings in this case and all of the other rights mentioned above.

9. Notwithstanding the above, I have, with the assistance of counsel, entered into an agreement with the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Indiana as follows:

(a) I agree to plead guilty to Count 2 of the Indictment charging me with transmitting in interstate commerce a threat to injure the person of another, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 875(c), because I am, in fact, guilty of the offense charged.

(b) I understand that in order for the Court to accept my guilty plea to Count 2 of the Indictment, the Court must receive a factual basis. In connection with my guilty plea, I acknowledge the following facts:

On September 30, 2025, in Wabash in the Northern District of Indiana, I knowingly transmitted a communication by using my Telegram account to post a message in a Telegram group chat online.

Specifically, I used my Telegram account to post a message in a Telegram group online, in which I said, “We need to kill as many Mossad agents as we can and as many Jews as we can to get a high score. None of us in here have ever killed Jews. So right now all of our body counts are zero. Change that. I plan on changing mine soon enough.”

I do not dispute that the things I knowingly said and posted in the Telegram group chat on September 30, 2025 contained true threats to injure someone else. When I posted the message online, I knew that other people would view my communication as a threat. By posting the message online in the Telegram group chat, I transmitted the message in interstate and foreign commerce. I do not dispute that my communications traveled in interstate commerce.

(c) I understand that the maximum possible penalty that may be imposed upon me for my conviction of transmitting in interstate commerce a threat to injure the person of another as charged in Count 2 of the Indictment is a term of imprisonment, if any, not to exceed 5 years, a fine not to exceed \$250,000.00, or a combination of both imprisonment and a fine, to which may be added a term of supervised release of up to 3 years, plus a special assessment of \$100.00 in addition to any other penalty imposed.

(d) I understand that under the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, the Court, in light of an investigation by the United States Probation Office, will determine the applicable sentencing guideline range, and that the Court will determine all matters, whether factual or legal, relevant to the application of the sentencing guidelines including, but not limited to, the adjusted offense level, the

relevant circumstances in the case, the criminal history points and category, relevant conduct, the grouping of offenses, victim-related adjustments, role in the offense adjustments, career offender status, criminal livelihood and acceptance of responsibility as well as possible departures from the application of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines. I understand that the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines are advisory only, and that the specific sentence to be imposed upon me will be determined by the judge after a consideration of a pre-sentence investigation report; input from counsel for myself, from the government, and from me; federal sentencing statutes; and the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines.

(e) I understand that the law gives a convicted person the right to appeal the conviction and the sentence imposed. I also understand that no one can predict the precise sentence that will be imposed, and that the Court has jurisdiction and authority to impose any sentence within the statutory maximum set for my offense as set forth in this plea agreement. With this understanding and in consideration of the government's entry into this plea agreement, I expressly waive my right to appeal or to contest my conviction and all components of my sentence or the manner in which my conviction or my sentence was determined or imposed, to any Court on any ground other than a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, including any appeal under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742 or any post-conviction proceeding, including but not limited to a proceeding under Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255.

(f) I also agree to waive all rights, whether asserted directly or through a representative, to, after sentencing, request or receive from the United States any further records, reports, or documents pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this matter. This waiver includes, but is not limited to, rights conferred by the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act of 1974. Further, I acknowledge that I have received all discovery required by law prior to the entry of this plea and that I have reviewed the same with my lawyer.

(g) I understand that the government has reserved the right to tell the Court the good things about me and the bad things about me, and to fully inform the Court of the nature and extent of my offense as well as the full extent of my criminal history.

(h) Any agreement that follows in this sub-paragraph is submitted to the Court pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and is not binding upon the Court. I understand that this means that if the Court refuses to follow the recommendations set forth in this sub-paragraph, I will not be allowed to withdraw my guilty plea:

(1) The United States of America and I agree that in recognition of my acceptance of responsibility for my offense conduct, I am entitled to a two-level reduction in offense level. The United States of America and I further agree that I have assisted authorities in the investigation or prosecution of my own misconduct by timely notifying the United States Attorney's Office of my intention to plead guilty, thereby permitting the government to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the government and the Court to allocate their resources efficiently, and we agree that if my offense level is 16 or greater, the government will move at sentencing for me to receive an additional one-level reduction in offense level. However, the government's obligation to recommend acceptance of responsibility under this plea agreement is contingent upon my continuing manifestation of acceptance of responsibility. Should I deny my involvement, give conflicting statements of my involvement, or engage in additional criminal conduct including any personal use of controlled substances, the government shall not be bound to recommend any reduction in offense level for acceptance of responsibility.

(2) At the time of sentencing, the United States Attorney shall recommend that I be sentenced to a period of imprisonment at the low end of the applicable guideline range, said guideline range to be determined by the Court.

(3) I further understand that the Court is not bound by these recommendations, that the Court makes the final decision regarding my receipt of a reduction in offense level for acceptance of responsibility, and that I am not entitled to withdraw this guilty plea if the Court decides not to accept these recommendations.

(i) Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and in exchange for my guilty plea, the United States agrees to move to dismiss Counts 1 and 3 of the Indictment at the time of sentencing. However, I understand that the facts underlying Counts 1 and 3 may be relevant for purposes of the sentencing guidelines calculation as well as my sentence.

(j) I understand that other than what is contained in this plea agreement, no predictions, promises, or representations have been made to me as to the specific sentence that will be imposed.

10. I am prepared to state to the Court my reasons based on the facts in this matter that cause me to believe that I am GUILTY as charged.

11. I believe and feel that my lawyer has done all that anyone could do to counsel and assist me and that I now understand the proceedings in this case against me.

12. I declare that I offer my plea of GUILTY freely and voluntarily and of my own accord, and no promises have been made to me other than those contained in this petition, nor have I been threatened in any way by anyone to cause me to plead GUILTY in accordance with this petition.

13. I understand and acknowledge that this petition, once filed with the Court, is a public document and is available for public viewing.

*s/ Kayden Bell*

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Kayden Bell  
Defendant

*s/ Kurt R. Earnst*

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Kurt R. Earnst  
Attorney for Defendant

APPROVED:

ADAM L. MILDRED  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

By: *s/ Lydia T. Lucius*

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LYDIA T. LUCIUS  
Assistant United States Attorney  
M01 Robert A. Grant Federal Bldg.  
204 S. Main Street  
South Bend, Indiana 46601  
Tel: (574) 236-8287  
Fax: (574) 236-8155  
E-mail: Lydia.Lucius@usdoj.gov