NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
JOHN F. WOOD

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs ● (816) 426-4220 ● 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 ● Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN INDICTED FOR CYBERSTALKING

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – John F. Wood, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Kansas City, Mo., man has been indicted by a federal grand jury for cyberstalking.

Shawn D. Memarian, 28, of Kansas City, was charged in an indictment returned under seal by a federal grand jury on Thursday, May 8, 2008. That indictment was unsealed and made public today upon **Memarian's** arrest and initial court appearance.

The federal indictment alleges that between July 15, 2006, and Sept. 1, 2007, **Memarian** engaged in a course of conduct consisting of malicious postings to MySpace, Facebook, Craig's List and other Internet social sites in which he caused the personal identity information of Melissa Sandfort – including her home address – to be publicly displayed. At the time, the indictment says, **Memarian** had been served with a restraining order forbidding contact with Sandfort.

The indictment alleges that the intent of the malicious postings was to place Sandfort in fear of death and serious bodily injury. **Memarian** allegedly posed as Sandfort and distributed Web site invitations to visit Sandfort's residence for sexual gratification.

The indictment also alleges that **Memarian** sent malicious emails to Sandfort, threatening her with death and serious bodily injury, which caused substantial emotional distress to Sandfort.

Wood cautioned that the charge contained in this indictment is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Cowles. It was investigated by the Gladstone, Mo., Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html