



Cesar Altieri Sayoc

Former BC student and soccer player arrested, suspected of mailing pipe bombs to Democrats

By Zach Dickerson and John Padgett

The story began to break early on Friday that the FBI had apprehended a Florida man in connection with the mail bombs that had been sent earlier that week to prominent Democrats, including Barack Obama, Bill and Hillary Clinton, and Vice President Joe Biden.

CNN, the New York Times and other national news organizations reported the arrest of Cesar Sayoc, 56, an ardent Trump supporter, as the person whom they suspected of creating pipe bombs as part of an apparent attempt to silence critics of President Donald Trump. Immediately, reporters began digging for information about Sayoc, including his political leanings, his contacts and recent whereabouts, and his past.

By early afternoon, it had become clear that his past included Brevard College.

As news began reporting Sayoc's connections to the college in the early 1980s, a news release from the BC Office of Communications at 1:48 p.m. confirmed that Sayoc had indeed been a student and member of the soccer team at Brevard College for three semesters, from the fall of 1980 through the fall of 1981. At the time, the college was a two-year college, so Sayoc would have had only a single semester remaining.

Over the weekend, more information began to surface about Sayoc from not just when he was a student here but in the decades since, including visits to an awards dinner to honor his former coach in 2015 and other visits to Brevard and western North Carolina as recently as last year.

The manhunt began on the afternoon of Monday, Oct. 22, when a pipe bomb was found in a package delivered to billionaire activist George Soros. Packages that appeared to be bombs were also delivered to the homes of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton on the morning of Wednesday, Oct. 24, and that afternoon a package was delivered to CNN's New York headquarters that not only contained a pipe bomb, but also a suspicious white powder, prompting the evacuation of CNN's studios for several hours.

Other people who received packages were Maxine Waters, a U.S. Representative for California's 43rd congressional district; former CIA director John Brennan; New Jersey Senator Cory Booker; former director of national intelligence James Clapper; and actor Robert DeNiro.

According to a complaint signed by FBI Special Agent David Brown, the packages to Obama, Brennan, Soros and Waters each contained a picture of the individual with a red "X" marked on them.

Many of the packages had a return address to Debbie Wasserman Schultz, U.S. Representative for Florida's 23rd congressional district, though her name was misspelled on the packages. Some of the packages

were returned to her address.

According to media reports, investigators were able to pull a fingerprint from the envelope to Waters and they found DNA on two of the devices which led them to find and arrest Sayoc. Authorities found Sayoc living in his van outside of an auto supply store in Plantation, Florida where they arrested him at around 10:30 a.m. Friday.

Sayoc's van was covered with pro-Trump stickers and also had a sticker that read "CNN SUCKS" and "DISHONEST MEDIA" along with one that talks about "draining the swamp." There were also many stickers that depicted people with red crosshairs on them, including Hillary Clinton, CNN's Van Jones, filmmaker Michael Moore, Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein and what appears to be Barack Obama riding a tricycle. The van also had a Brevard College Soccer sticker on it.

According to numerous media reports, Sayoc has had a long criminal history, including a past arrest for making a bomb threat in 2002 and committing domestic violence against his grandmother.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced on Friday afternoon

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Cesar Sayoc, second from left in the back row, was one of the "Crunch Bunch" playing defense on the fall 1981 BC soccer team, according to the caption in the 1982 yearbook, "Pertelote." See more Sayoc photos on pages 4-5.