

Anti-Muslim filmmaker who sparked violent protests jailed after being arrested for 'violating probation by posting video online'

- **Nakoula Basseley Nakoula was sentenced on fraud charges in 2010**
- **Banned from using the internet without permission for five years**
- **But apparently uploaded controversial anti-Islam film Innocence of Muslims to YouTube, leading to bloody riots throughout Middle East**
- **Judge refused to let him out on bail due to 'lack of trust'**

By Daily Mail Reporter

The man who sparked protests across the Muslim world with a video mocking the prophet Muhammad was yesterday arrested and jailed for violating his probation.

Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, 55, has been on probation for a 2010 federal cheque fraud conviction that brought a 21-month prison sentence.

Under the terms of his probation, he was not to use computers or the internet for five years without approval from his probation officer.

A judge ordered that he be held in jail, as there is a high risk that he could attempt to flee if released on bail.



Arrested: Filmmaker Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, pictured on the set of Innocence of Muslims, is accused of violating the terms of his probation



Jailed: Nakoula was ordered to be detained without bail due to the risk he could abscond



Defence: His lawyer said he risked violent reprisals from Muslim inmates if sent to prison

Nakoula was taken into custody on Thursday, according to a U.S. Attorney's spokesman.

At a U.S. District Court hearing in Los Angeles, judge Suzanne Segal denied him bail, saying he had 'every incentive to disappear' and adding: 'The court has a lack of trust in this defendant at this time.'

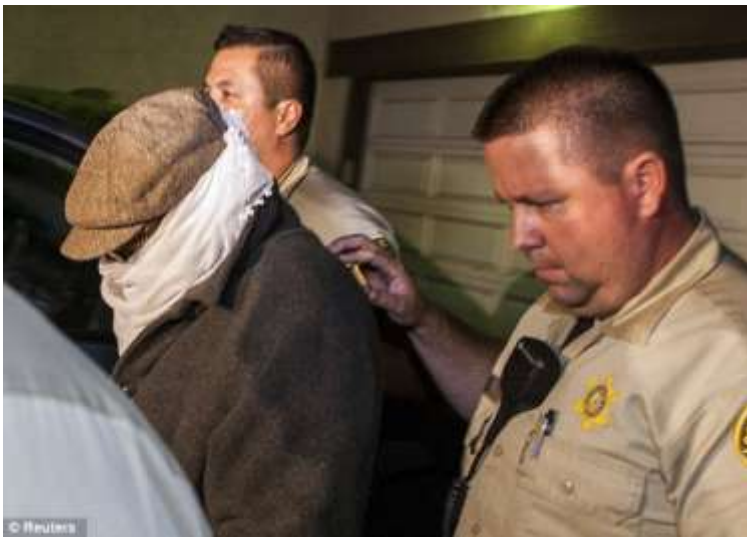
Nakoula had eight probation violations, including lying to his probation officers and using aliases, and he might face new charges that carry a maximum two-year prison term.

He will remain behind bars until another hearing where a judge will rule if he broke the terms of his probation.

The defendant's attorney Steven Seiden sought to have the hearing closed and his client released on \$10,000 bail, adding he was concerned his client would be in danger in federal prison because of Muslim inmates.



Subterfuge: Nakoula was accompanied by U.S. marshals and a police convoy after his hearing on Thursday



Custody: Nakoula was taken for questioning on September 15, after his film provoked riots in the Muslim world



In hiding: The filmmaker was driven away by police from his home in Cerritos, California

Protests have erupted around the Middle East over a 14-minute trailer for the film *Innocence of Muslims* that depicts Muhammad as a womanizer, religious fraud and child molester.

The trailer was posted to YouTube in July, but the violence did not break out until September 11 and has spread since, resulting in the death of Chris Stevens, the U.S. ambassador to Libya, alongside three other Americans.

Nakoula, a Christian originally from Egypt, went into hiding after he was identified as the man behind the trailer.

The full story about Nakoula and the film is still very unclear.

The movie was made last year by a man who called himself Sam Bacile. After the violence erupted, a man who identified himself as Bacile called media outlets taking credit for the film and said it was meant to portray the truth about Muhammad and Islam, which he called a cancer.

The next day, it emerged that 'Bacile' was in fact Nakoula, a former gas station owner with a drug conviction and a history of using aliases. Federal authorities later confirmed there was no Bacile and that Nakoula was behind the movie.



Flames: The reaction to the video led to the sacking of the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, pictured



Suing: Cindy Lee Garcia says she was misled over the role she would be playing in the controversial video

Before going into hiding, Nakoula acknowledged that he was involved with the film, but said he only worked on logistics and management.

A film permit listed Media for Christ, a Los Angeles-area charity run by other Egyptian Christians, as the production company. Most of the film was made at the charity's headquarters.

Steve Klein, an insurance agent in Hemet and outspoken critic of Islam, has said he was a consultant and promoter for the film.

The trailer still can be found on YouTube. The Obama administration asked Google, YouTube's parent, to take down the video but the company has refused, saying it did not violate its content standards.

Meantime, a number of actors and workers on the film have come forward to say they were duped.

They say they were hired for a film titled 'Desert Warrior' and there was no mention of Islam or Muhammad in the script. Those references were apparently dubbed in after filming was completed.

Actress Cindy Lee Garcia has sued to get the trailer taken down.