



FBI PRESS RELEASE

LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE

11000 Wilshire Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90024 310-996-3343, 3804, 4402 www.losangeles.fbi.gov

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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SOUGHT FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO IDENTIFICATION OF THE GRANDMA BANDIT

The FBI is seeking information leading to the identity of an elderly female, believed to be responsible for robbing the same bank branch in Chino, California, in January and November of this year. During the robberies, the woman indicated she was being victimized in some way by other individuals. Agents have not ruled out the possibility that this is true, but also theorize that this woman may have used the ruse as a tactic to elicit sympathy from tellers and to avoid a police response.

The unidentified female in the bank surveillance photos was nicknamed the "Grandma Bandit," after witnesses described the robber as an elderly woman. The bank, a Bank of America branch located at 12747 Central Avenue in Chino, was robbed on January 14, 2008, and November 14, 2008.

During the January robbery, the Grandma Bandit lifted her shirt to reveal a metal object with wires attached. She also presented a note that read, "Please help this lady, she is strapped." The woman proceeded to rob the bank while asking the teller to help her. The bandit walked out of the bank and was seen getting into the driver's side of a white SUV.

During the most recent robbery last Friday, the bandit again presented a note. She was described by witnesses as wearing a blonde wig. The bandit made statements indicating she was under some sort of duress.

The bandit was described by witnesses as an elderly woman, possibly of Middle Eastern decent, 60 years old, between 5'5" and 5'6", with a thin build and prescription glasses.

Anyone with information as to the whereabouts or identity of the Grandma Bandit is urged to contact the FBI. The FBI in Los Angeles can be reached 24 hours a day at 310 477-6565 or 1 888 CANT HIDE (1 888 226-8443.) During business hours, the FBI's Riverside office can be reached by calling 951 686-0335.

Media Contact:

FBI, Los Angeles: Laura Eimiller: 310 996-3343
Vickie Hampton-Franklin: 310 996-3342
Lourdes Arocho: 310 996-4402