

# APPENDIX

73 F.4th 789

United States Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit.

UNITED STATES of America, Plaintiff - Appellee,  
v.

Isaiah Whitefox REDBIRD, Defendant - Appellant.

No. 22-6055

|

FILED July 10, 2023

### Synopsis

**Background:** Defendant was convicted in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, *Stephen P. Friot, Jr.*, of first-degree murder and assault resulting in serious bodily injury. Defendant appealed.

**Holdings:** The Court of Appeals, *Moritz*, Circuit Judge, held that:

[1] defendant failed to preserve for appellate review his claim that district court erroneously admitted evidence about his propensity for violence, and

[2] defendant waived any claim that district court committed plain error.

Affirmed.

**Procedural Posture(s):** Appellate Review.

West Headnotes (5)

[1] **Criminal Law** Other offenses and character of accused

**Criminal Law** Adding to or changing grounds of objection

Defendant failed to preserve for appellate review his claim that district court erroneously admitted evidence about his propensity for violence under exception to prohibition on character evidence because he offered victim character evidence only for nonpropensity purpose, in murder case; defense counsel's objection to testimony did not raise specific argument raised

on appeal, counsel's single reference to self-defense was not definite enough to indicate precise ground on which defendant now objected to testimony, issue of whether defendant opened door to character evidence was not front and center for court, and, after court accepted government's characterization that testimony had been admitted to show victim's propensity for violence, defendant never corrected that characterization. *Fed. R. Evid. 404(a)(2)(B)*.

[2]

**Criminal Law** Other offenses and character of accused

**Criminal Law** Other offenses

The standard of review applicable to a court's evidentiary ruling admitting character evidence about defendant's propensity for violence under rule governing exception to prohibition of character evidence depends on whether defendant made a timely, specific objection to the disputed evidence at trial; if he did, Court of Appeals reviews for abuse of discretion, but if he failed to properly object, Court of Appeals may reverse only if he shows plain error. *Fed. R. Evid. 404(a)(2)(B)*.

[3]

**Criminal Law** Necessity of Objections in General

Under the plain error standard, a defendant must show (1) an error; (2) that is "plain," meaning clear or obvious under current law; (3) that affects substantial rights; and (4) that seriously affects the fairness, integrity, or public reputation of judicial proceedings.

[4]

**Criminal Law** Points and authorities

Defendant waived any claim that district court committed plain error by admitting evidence about his propensity for violence under exception to prohibition on character evidence, in first-degree murder prosecution; defendant did not argue he could satisfy plain-error standard, and defendant argued only that plain error should not apply because he adequately preserved his objection. *Fed. R. Evid. 404(a)(2)(B)*.

**[5]   Criminal Law**  Necessity of Objections in General

**Criminal Law**  Points and authorities

When an appellant fails to preserve an issue and also fails to make a plain-error argument on appeal, Court of Appeals ordinarily deems the issue waived (rather than merely forfeited) and declines to review the issue at all.

Redbird's convictions stem from a 2018 incident in Carnegie, Oklahoma, involving Byron Tongkeamah Jr. and Tongkeamah's girlfriend, Kayleigh Roughface, who at the time both lived in a carport attached to an abandoned home. One night in September, Redbird arrived at the carport with a crowbar and used it to hit both occupants on the head several times, killing Tongkeamah and seriously wounding Roughface. For this conduct, the government charged Redbird with premeditated first-degree murder (and, alternatively, second-degree murder) as to Tongkeamah, in violation of  18 U.S.C. § 1111(a); and assault resulting in serious bodily injury as to Roughface, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 113(a)(6).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>

The indictment also charged Redbird with assaulting Roughface with intent to commit murder, but the jury acquitted Redbird of that count.

At trial, Redbird testified that he acted in self-defense. According to Redbird, he carried a crowbar for protection that night because he and Tongkeamah had several increasingly tense interactions in the previous weeks, and he had to walk through an area where he might run into Tongkeamah. While walking by the carport, Redbird recounted, he decided to stop in and ask about reports that Tongkeamah had murdered Redbird's close childhood friend, Cindy Kaudlekaule, the year before. On Redbird's telling, when asked about the reports, Tongkeamah began searching for an axe to attack Redbird. Fearing for his safety, Redbird stepped forward and hit Tongkeamah with the crowbar, then hit Roughface because she appeared to be grabbing a weapon, and then hit Tongkeamah a second time for good measure. The government disputed this account, instead arguing that Redbird went to the carport planning to kill Tongkeamah and Roughface based on the former's rumored role in Kaudlekaule's murder; that he attacked the pair while they were sleeping; and that he only later tried to justify his premeditated conduct by claiming self-defense.

Early in the trial, an evidentiary dispute arose during defense counsel's cross-examination of the government's first witness—Special Agent Micah Ware, who investigated the case for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The dispute began when defense counsel elicited testimony from Ware that Tongkeamah had prior robbery and burglary convictions, had served prison time, and belonged to a violent prison gang. When defense counsel expanded on the latter point by asking if the gang's members were "known as stabbers," the government objected

**\*790   Appeal from the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma (D.C. No. 5:19-CR-00347-F-1)**

**Attorneys and Law Firms**

Howard A. Pincus, Assistant Federal Public Defender ([Virginia L. Grady](#), Federal Public Defender, with him on the briefs), Denver, Colorado, for Defendant-Appellant.

D.H. Dilbeck, Assistant United States Attorney ([Robert J. Troester](#), United States Attorney, with him on the brief), Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for Plaintiff-Appellee.

Before [MORITZ](#), [BALDOCK](#), and [MURPHY](#), Circuit Judges.

**Opinion**

[MORITZ](#), Circuit Judge.

**\*791** Isaiah Whitefox Redbird, a member of the Kiowa Nation, appeals his jury convictions for first-degree murder and assault resulting in serious bodily injury. He argues that the district court improperly admitted character evidence about his propensity for violence under [Federal Rule of Evidence 404\(a\)\(2\)\(B\)](#). But Redbird did not raise that specific objection at trial, so we may reverse his convictions only if he shows that the district court plainly erred in admitting the disputed evidence. Because Redbird does not argue plain error on appeal, we conclude that he waived his evidentiary challenge and therefore affirm his convictions.

**Background**

that the question would \*792 elicit improper evidence about Tongkeamah's character trait for violence. R. vol. 4, 266. The government argued that even though evidence about Tongkeamah's violence could bear on self-defense if Redbird "was aware of" that trait when the alleged crimes occurred, Redbird had not "established that [he] knew these specific things about ... Tongkeamah." *Id.* at 267; *see also United States v. Armajo*, 38 F.4th 80, 83 (10th Cir. 2022) (noting that self-defense requires "a genuine and reasonable belief that [defendant] was in imminent danger of death or great bodily harm").

In response, defense counsel represented that Redbird would later testify that he knew about Tongkeamah's violent character trait, thus making the testimony relevant to show his state of mind for self-defense. Based on that representation, the district court overruled the government's objection and allowed the questioning to continue. Defense counsel then had Ware confirm that Tongkeamah "had violent tendencies"; that he routinely beat Roughface; that he was a bully; that he intimidated and threatened people; that he was a suspect in Kaudlekaule's murder; and that he sometimes beat up and robbed his uncle.<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 268.

<sup>2</sup> Redbird presented similar evidence about Tongkeamah's character for violence—that he committed specific violent acts or had a reputation for violence—from 10 of the 12 witnesses the government called after Ware.

On redirect, the evidentiary dispute resurfaced when the government asked Ware whether he knew that Redbird possessed "the same trait for violence" as Tongkeamah. *Id.* at 294. When defense counsel objected, the government asserted that under **Federal Rule of Evidence 404(a)(2)(B)**, it could offer evidence about Redbird's violent trait because the defense had offered evidence about Tongkeamah's violent trait. *See Fed. R. Evid. 404(a)(2)(B)(ii)* (allowing prosecution to respond to defense evidence about "an alleged victim's pertinent trait" with "evidence of the defendant's same trait"). Defense counsel countered that testimony about Redbird's violence was inadmissible because the cross-examination did not address Redbird's "character for peacefulness or anything else" and instead simply asked Ware about Tongkeamah's violence "because [the] defense is self-defense." R. vol. 4, 295. After the government responded that the testimony was fair game because the defense had offered character evidence about Tongkeamah's "propensity for violence," the district court overruled the defense's objection. *Id.* at 296; *see also*

**Fed. R. Evid. 404(a)(1)** (describing propensity evidence as "[e]vidence of a person's character" offered "to prove that on a particular occasion the person acted in accordance with the character").

The government then elicited testimony from Ware about Redbird's propensity for violence, reputation in the community as a violent person, and prior conviction for a violent felony. And later, after Redbird confirmed his knowledge of Tongkeamah's propensity and reputation for violence, the government cross-examined Redbird about his prior violent-felony conviction and an incident in which he had stabbed someone.

Ultimately, the jury convicted Redbird of first-degree murder and assault resulting in serious bodily injury.<sup>3</sup> At sentencing, the district court imposed a mandatory life prison term for the murder charge and a consecutive ten-year prison term for the assault charge. Redbird appeals.

<sup>3</sup> The jury also convicted Redbird of second-degree murder, but the district court dismissed that charge as a lesser-included offense of first-degree murder.

### \*793 Analysis

[1] [2] [3] Redbird challenges his convictions based on the district court's decision to admit character evidence about his propensity for violence. The standard of review applicable to that evidentiary ruling depends on whether Redbird made a timely, specific objection to the disputed evidence at trial. *See United States v. Battles*, 745 F.3d 436, 452 (10th Cir. 2014); **Fed. R. Evid. 103(a)(1)**. If he did, we review for abuse of discretion. *Battles*, 745 F.3d at 452. But if he failed to properly object, we may reverse only if he shows plain error. *Id.* Under that standard, Redbird must show "(1) an error[;] (2) that is plain," meaning "clear or obvious under current law"; "(3) that affects substantial rights"; and (4) that "seriously affects the fairness, integrity, or public reputation of judicial proceedings." *Id.* at 445 n.9 (quoting  *United States v. Goode*, 483 F.3d 676, 681 (10th Cir. 2007)).

Redbird's evidentiary challenge focuses on Ware's testimony that Redbird has a propensity for violence, which the district court admitted under **Rule 404(a)(2)(B)**. Under that provision, when a criminal defendant offers evidence about "an alleged victim's pertinent [character] trait" and the district court admits such evidence, the government may "offer evidence

of the defendant's same trait." [Fed. R. Evid. 404\(a\)\(2\)\(B\)](#) (ii). Redbird argues that the district court could not admit the challenged testimony under this provision because it applies only if the defendant offers evidence of a victim's character trait for a propensity purpose—to show that the victim "acted in accordance with th[at] ... trait" on a particular occasion. [Fed. R. Evid. 404\(a\)\(1\)](#). [Rule 404\(a\)\(2\)\(B\)](#) was "not implicated" here, Redbird says, because he elicited testimony about Tongkeamah's violence only for a "non[ ]propensity purpose"—to support his self-defense theory by showing that he knew about such violence and therefore reasonably feared for his life when Tongkeamah allegedly searched for an axe. Aplt. Br. 28; *see also* [Fed. R. Evid. 404](#) advisory committee's note to 2000 amendments (explaining that prosecution cannot admit evidence about defendant's character under [Rule 404\(a\)](#) if defendant "merely use[d] character evidence for a purpose other than to prove the alleged victim's propensity to act in a certain way").

The government argues that Redbird failed to preserve this evidentiary challenge because he did not object to Ware's testimony on "the specific ground" he advances on

appeal. Aplee. Br. 16 (quoting  [United States v. Lamy](#), 521 F.3d 1257, 1265 (10th Cir. 2008)); *see also* [United States v. Ramirez](#), 348 F.3d 1175, 1181 (10th Cir. 2003) (explaining that "[t]he specific ground for reversal of an evidentiary ruling on appeal must ... be the same as that raised at trial"; otherwise, plain-error review applies (ellipsis in original) (quoting [United States v. Norman T.](#), 129 F.3d 1099, 1106 (10th Cir. 1997))). More specifically, the government contends that when objecting at trial, Redbird never argued (as he now does) that the testimony about his propensity for violence was inadmissible under [Rule 404\(a\)\(2\)\(B\)](#) because he had offered evidence of Tongkeamah's violence solely for a nonpropensity purpose.

The record confirms as much. Recall that when defense counsel objected to the government asking Ware if Redbird possessed "the same trait for violence" as Tongkeamah, the government justified the inquiry under [Rule 404\(a\)\(2\)\(B\)](#), asserting that this provision applied because the district court had allowed Redbird to admit evidence about Tongkeamah's violent character trait. Defense counsel's three-paragraph response, reproduced below, asserted various reasons for objecting to the \*794 government's proposed testimony—none of which align with the argument Redbird makes on appeal:

We object to it, Your Honor, because we never got into the good character, character for peacefulness or anything else of ... Redbird. We were simply asking about ... Tongkeamah because our defense is self-defense.

Now, there may be an opportunity for the government to question ... Redbird about that when he testifies; however, this is not the appropriate time with this witness, so we object to it. It's improper character evidence as to ... Redbird.

They're going far afield of perhaps his prior felony conviction to go into any number of possible unadjudicated acts, and we don't think that a self-defense defense opens the door to a wholesale attack on the defendant's character, so we object to it.

R. vol. 4, 295–96. Nowhere in the response above does Redbird argue, as he does on appeal, that he never opened the door to defendant character evidence under [Rule 404\(a\)\(2\)\(B\)](#) because he offered victim character evidence only for a nonpropensity purpose.

In the first paragraph, defense counsel asserted that he did not open a *different* door to admitting defendant propensity evidence because he "never got into [Redbird's] good character" or "character for peacefulness" when cross-examining Ware. *Id.* at 295; *see also* [Fed. R. Evid. 404\(a\)\(2\)\(A\)](#) (allowing prosecution to rebut evidence about "the defendant's pertinent trait"). Next, defense counsel explained that he instead asked Ware about Tongkeamah's violence only "because [Redbird's] defense is self-defense." R. vol. 4, 295. But that statement does not convey what Redbird now argues: that he elicited testimony about Tongkeamah's violent character *only* for a nonpropensity purpose. As the government notes, such testimony could have also been relevant in the self-defense analysis for a propensity purpose

—to show that the victim was the aggressor. *See*  [United States v. Talamante](#), 981 F.2d 1153, 1156 (10th Cir. 1992) (noting that defendant may offer "evidence of a victim's violent character to prove that the victim was the aggressor");

 [Perrin v. Anderson](#), 784 F.2d 1040, 1045 n.3 (10th Cir. 1986) (explaining that even if evidence of victim's character trait "ha[d] no bearing on whether defendants had a reasonable fear of [victim], it is directly relevant to the issue of who was the aggressor in the fight"). Given these dual potential purposes, defense counsel's single reference to self-defense was not "'definite' enough to indicate to the district

court ‘the precise ground’ ” on which Redbird now objects to Ware’s testimony. *United States v. Winder*, 557 F.3d 1129, 1136 (10th Cir. 2009) (quoting *Neu v. Grant*, 548 F.2d 281, 287 (10th Cir. 1977)); *cf. also*  *United States v. Barrera-Landa*, 964 F.3d 912, 918 n.4 (10th Cir. 2020) (noting that party does not preserve issue for appeal by discussing it “only in a vague and ambiguous way below” (quoting  *Okland Oil Co. v. Conoco Inc.*, 144 F.3d 1308, 1314 n.4 (10th Cir. 1998))).

The remainder of defense counsel’s response likewise raised grounds different from the one Redbird now presses on appeal. The second paragraph, for instance, objects to the timing of the government’s question about Redbird’s trait for violence: Defense counsel suggested that although the government could perhaps “question … Redbird about that when he testifie[d] later, it could not broach the subject “with this witness.” R. vol. 4, 295. And in the third paragraph, defense counsel simply speculated that the government, if allowed to question Ware about Redbird’s violence, might mount “a wholesale attack \*795 on [Redbird’s] character” by discussing not only his “prior felony conviction” but also “any number of possible unadjudicated acts.” *Id.* at 296. Like the points in the first paragraph, these statements about the timing and scope of the government’s character evidence bear no resemblance to the argument Redbird advances in this appeal.

Tellingly, Redbird does not meaningfully dispute this reading of defense counsel’s objection below. He points to no particular statement in the objection that, in his view, “squarely presented” to the district court the basis on which he now challenges the government’s evidence about his propensity for violence.  *United States v. Taylor*, 514 F.3d 1092, 1096 (10th Cir. 2008). Instead, Redbird asserts that this basis should have been obvious to the district court because it had just allowed defense counsel to cross-examine Ware about Tongkeamah’s violence only for a nonpropensity purpose: to help establish Redbird’s own state of mind. And since that issue “was front and center for all concerned,” Redbird says, he “did not have to reiterate … that [he] had introduced proof of … Tongkeamah’s violence [only for] a

state-of-mind theory.” Rep. Br. 4. But the record suggests the issue was not front and center for the district court. Indeed, despite the earlier evidentiary ruling admitting testimony about Tongkeamah’s violence for a nonpropensity purpose, the district court nevertheless later accepted (erroneously, in Redbird’s view) the government’s characterization that such testimony had instead been admitted to show Tongkeamah’s propensity for violence. And crucially, Redbird never corrected that characterization or otherwise made clear that he objected for the reason he advances on appeal. We therefore conclude that plain-error review applies. *See*  *Lamy*, 521 F.3d at 1265.

[4] [5] Before us, however, Redbird does not argue that he can satisfy the plain-error standard. Instead, he argues only that it should not apply in the first place because he adequately preserved his objection. This failure to argue plain error dooms Redbird’s appeal: “When an appellant fails to preserve an issue and also fails to make a plain-error argument on appeal, we ordinarily deem the issue waived (rather than merely forfeited) and decline to review the issue at all ....” *United States v. Leffler*, 942 F.3d 1192, 1196 (10th Cir. 2019). Thus, we hold that Redbird has waived his evidentiary challenge.<sup>4</sup>

4

Given this conclusion, we do not reach the government’s argument that Redbird could not establish plain error even if we overlooked his waiver. Nor do we consider the government’s alternative arguments that the district court properly admitted Ware’s testimony and that, in any event, any error was harmless.

## Conclusion

Because Redbird waived his evidentiary challenge to the government’s character evidence, we affirm his convictions.

## All Citations

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MICAH WARE - REDIRECT BY MR. STONEMAN

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1 Q. Somebody could have taken it from wherever -- wherever  
2 Mr. Redbird left it?

3 A. Could have, yes.

4 MR. AUTRY: Okay. I think that's all. Thank you,  
5 Agent.

6 THE COURT: Any redirect?

7 MR. STONEMAN: Yes, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: You may proceed.

9 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. STONEMAN:

11 Q. Special Agent Ware, Mr. Autry asked you whether you were  
12 aware of Byron Tongkeamah, Jr.'s violent past, and you said  
13 yes?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Are you aware of evidence of the defendant's same trait  
16 for violence?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Such as what?

19 MR. AUTRY: Objection.

20 THE COURT: We'll -- I need to hear counsel at the  
21 bench. We'll have a bench conference.

22 (THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD AT THE BENCH AND OUT  
23 OF THE HEARING OF THE JURY.)

24 THE COURT: Okay. Can defense counsel hear me?

25 MR. AUTRY: Yes, sir.

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## MICAH WARE - REDIRECT BY MR. STONEMAN

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1                   THE COURT: And can government counsel hear me?

2                   MR. STONEMAN: Yes, Your Honor.

3                   THE COURT: Okay. And can the reporter hear me?

4                   Okay. Good.

5                   This gets us into obviously a little different context  
6 talking about the defendant's propensity. What's your theory  
7 of admissibility of this?

8                   MR. STONEMAN: Rule 404(a)(2)(B), character evidence,  
9 "Subject to the limitation of Rule 412, a defendant may offer  
10 evidence of an alleged victim's pertinent trait." I believe  
11 that pertinent trait here would be violence. "And if the  
12 evidence is admitted," which it has been here, "the prosecutor  
13 may," under subsection (2), "offer evidence of the defendant's  
14 same trait."

15                  THE COURT: That seems to be a fairly good answer,  
16 Mr. Autry. What's the defendant's response?

17                  MR. AUTRY: We object to it, Your Honor, because we  
18 never got into the good character, character for peacefulness  
19 or anything else of Mr. Redbird. We were simply asking about  
20 Mr. Tongkeamah because our defense is self-defense.

21                  Now, there may be an opportunity for the government to  
22 question Mr. Redbird about that when he testifies; however,  
23 this is not the appropriate time with this witness, so we  
24 object to it. It's improper character evidence as to  
25 Mr. Redbird.

## MICAH WARE - REDIRECT BY MR. STONEMAN

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1       They're going far afield of perhaps his prior felony  
2 conviction to go into any number of possible unadjudicated  
3 acts, and we don't think that a self-defense defense opens the  
4 door to a wholesale attack on the defendant's character, so we  
5 object to it.

6                   COURTROOM DEPUTY: I think David's voice is carrying  
7 too much.

8                   MR. AUTRY: Oh, I'm sorry.

9                   THE COURT: Mr. Stoneman.

10                  MR. STONEMAN: Your Honor, the Advisory Committee  
11 Notes in the 2000 amendment states, and I quote, "The amendment  
12 makes clear that the accused cannot attack the alleged victim's  
13 character and yet remain shielded from the disclosure of  
14 equally relevant evidence concerning the same character trait  
15 of the accused."

16                  In a violent criminal prosecution, the pertinent trait  
17 here is propensity for violence, or violence, or reputation for  
18 violence. It is not, as Mr. Autry suggests, we shouldn't have  
19 to wait until Mr. Redbird takes the stand to impeach him based  
20 on his felony convictions because that would generally go to  
21 whether or not he is a credible witness.

22                  The issue at this point in the trial is not whether  
23 Mr. Redbird is a credible witness because he hasn't testified;  
24 the relevant pertinent trait is peacefulness versus violence.  
25 And the rule and the Advisory Committee Notes makes that clear

## MICAH WARE - REDIRECT BY MR. STONEMAN

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1 that Mr. Redbird should not be able to introduce that pertinent  
2 trait of evidence of the victim, which he already has, without  
3 us being able to admit evidence of his same personal trait.

4 THE COURT: The objection will be overruled.

5 Now, I want you to -- we're not going to get into a wide-  
6 ranging analysis or assay of every bad thing that might be said  
7 about Mr. Redbird. This has to be confined to actual violent  
8 propensities. But on that basis, in reliance of the authority  
9 cited by the government, the objection is overruled.

10 MR. STONEMAN: Thank you.

11 (THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD IN OPEN COURT, WITH  
12 ALL PARTIES AND COUNSEL PRESENT, AND WITHIN THE PRESENCE AND  
13 HEARING OF THE JURY.)

14 Q. (BY MR. STONEMAN) Special Agent Ware, Mr. Autry asked you  
15 about Mr. Tongkeamah Jr.'s reputation for violence in his  
16 community. Are you familiar with Mr. Redbird's reputation for  
17 violence or his -- whether or not he has a trait of violence?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you tell the jury briefly what that is?

20 A. Yes. Pursuant to his NCIC III, there is a -- as I  
21 observed, an armed robbery and a assault with a deadly weapon.

22 Q. And Mr. Redbird, in his jail phone calls, tells his dad  
23 that Subee, Mr. Byron Tongkeamah, Jr., was "wanted for murder."  
24 Was Mr. Tongkeamah, Jr., wanted for murder at the time of his  
25 death?

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## ISAIAH WHITEFOX REDBIRD, SR. - CROSS BY MR. STONEMAN

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1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 Q. (BY MR. STONEMAN) And you were taking steps to avoid being  
3 located, weren't you?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. In fact, in July -- excuse me -- in June of 2018,  
6 you told somebody that you post different places on Facebook to  
7 throw the Feds off; is that correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. And you told Christian Woosypitti --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- that, I'm supposed to be on state probation in Pima  
12 County for an assault charge but I left to come out here after  
13 I stabbed Lavan in the lung.

14 MR. AUTRY: Objection.

15 THE WITNESS: He was trying to kill me.

16 MR. STONEMAN: He was trying to kill you, too?

17 THE COURT: Wait, wait, just a minute is.

18 MR. AUTRY: I'm going to object to this.

19 THE WITNESS: Yeah. Can I answer it?

20 THE COURT: Wait, wait, wait, let me hear the  
21 objection.

22 MR. AUTRY: Could we have a brief bench conference?

23 THE COURT: You may.

24 (THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD AT THE BENCH AND OUT  
25 OF THE HEARING OF THE JURY.)

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## ISAIAH WHITEFOX REDBIRD, SR. - CROSS BY MR. STONEMAN

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1                   THE COURT: Okay. First of all, can the reporter  
2 hear me?

3                   Okay. Can government counsel hear me?

4                   MR. STONEMAN: Yes, Your Honor.

5                   THE COURT: And defense counsel hear me?

6                   MR. AUTRY: Yes, Your Honor.

7                   THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to ask you all to -- we  
8 had some experience yesterday with bench conferences being  
9 audible to people we did not intend them to hear them, so it's  
10 probably helpful if you at least face the back of the  
11 courtroom, rather than over toward the jury, and then I'll hear  
12 what you have to say, Mr. Autry.

13                  MR. AUTRY: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

14                  We object to this as being extraneous other crimes  
15 evidence that is not relevant to the material issues in this  
16 case and it's unfairly prejudicial.

17                  THE COURT: What says the government?

18                  MR. STONEMAN: Your Honor, this evidence is relevant  
19 for multiple reasons. The first being, it is evidence of -- it  
20 is character evidence of Mr. Redbird that is offered to show a  
21 pertinent trait. We discussed earlier in this trial that  
22 defense has gone to great lengths to show a pertinent trait of  
23 violence by Mr. Tongkeamah, Jr., and under the rules, since  
24 that was admitted for that purpose, we can admit this for this  
25 same purpose.

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1           Additionally, Mr. Redbird has testified on direct  
2 examination that his justification for this murder being tribal  
3 law, that that was somehow fabricated after his  
4 arrest; however, as we will show in additional Facebook  
5 postings that he made prior to his arrest, prior to the murder  
6 in this case, he justified stabbing Lavan in the lungs  
7 because -- for the same reasons, because he was -- it was on  
8 Kiowa land and because he is a Kiowa warrior.

9           Additionally, Mr. Redbird has testified that the song  
10 lyrics had nothing to do with his intended killing, he actually  
11 posted song lyrics about the stabbing of Mr. Lavan in the lungs  
12 and we would offer that to show that that is also -- that the  
13 same type of song composition in this case is relevant to show  
14 that that does show his intent; it shows a premeditation to  
15 kill Mr. Tongkeamah, Jr.

16           THE COURT: All right. The objection will be  
17 overruled for those reasons, plus a conventional 403(b)  
18 analysis would also render this evidence admissible. And under  
19 403(b) balancing, the probative value versus the prejudicial  
20 effect or potential prejudicial effect, I find that the  
21 probative value outweighs the prejudicial effect, so the  
22 objection will be overruled.

23           Now, that said, let me ask this: How many more instances  
24 do you intend to get into?

25           MR. STONEMAN: Instances of acts of violence?

## ISAIAH WHITEFOX REDBIRD, SR. - CROSS BY MR. STONEMAN

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1 THE COURT: Yes.

2 MR. STONEMAN: I believe it is just this one;  
3 however, we do have evidence that the day before the murder,  
4 that he posted on Facebook -- we're not alleging that  
5 Mr. Redbird was a member of IBH, but the day before the murder,  
6 he tells somebody on Facebook, I believe, "I'm out here hanging  
7 with my OGs from IBH," which would contradict his evidence that  
8 he was "concerned" or somehow intimidated by Mr. Tongkeamah,  
9 Jr.'s status as an IBH member.

10 THE COURT: We'll cross that bridge when we come to  
11 it.

12 The pending objection is overruled for the reasons I've  
13 stated.

14 MR. AUTRY: Thank you.

15 (THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD IN OPEN COURT, WITH  
16 ALL PARTIES AND COUNSEL PRESENT, AND WITHIN THE PRESENCE AND  
17 HEARING OF THE JURY.)

18 Q. (BY MR. STONEMAN) Mr. Redbird?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Do you recall telling Christian Woosypitti,  
21 I'm supposed to be on state probation in Pima County for  
22 an assault charge but I left to come out here after I stabbed  
23 Lavan in the lung lol because I guess it was my -- it was a  
24 probation violation even though it happened on my property, so  
25 I post different places to throw the feds off"?

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