#### The Observer

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## Madoff probe focuses on tax havens

#### **James Doran** in New York

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The hunt for funds allegedly cheated out of investors by <u>Bernard Madoff</u>, who faces fraud charges in New York, has turned to offshore tax havens where investigators believe he may have salted away hundreds of millions of dollars.

Stephen Harbeck, chief executive of America's Securities Investor Protection Corporation (Sipc) and official receiver of Madoff's now defunct brokerage business, said the hunt for funds was likely to spread all over the world. "We will trace funds wherever the trail goes," he said on the steps of the US Bankruptcy Court for the

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For the biggest losers in the Madoff scandal, the compensation is a drop in the ocean. Fairfield Greenwich, the investment firm run by Madoff chum Walter Noel, lost \$7.5bn in the fraud while womenswear magnate and Madoff mentor Carl Shapiro lost \$545m of his personal fortune. Claims for compensation will be restricted to those investors who can prove they sent money to Madoff in the 12 months prior to his arrest on 11 December.

Judge Lifland invited Madoff investors to attend a meeting at the US Bankruptcy Court on 18 February.

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