

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

June 28, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Defendants Plead Guilty to Terrorism Charges

Rochester, NY- June 28, 2019, 20-year old Vincent Vetromile, 20-year-old Brian Colaneri, and 19-year-old Andrew Crysel all entered pleas of guilty before Judge Sam Valleriani in Monroe County Court this morning. Colaneri and Crysel both pled guilty to Conspiracy in the Second Degree as a Crime of Terrorism. Vetromile pled guilty to Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the First Degree as a Crime of Terrorism.

Between September of 2018 and January of 2019, Vetromile, Colaneri, and Crysel engaged in the deliberate planning of a domestic terrorism attack aimed at the Muslim community of Islamberg in Dutchess County, New York. All three defendants planned the acquisition of weapons and discussed methods and strategies for their attack. Vetromile, in particular, solicited another individual to manufacture improvised explosive devices to be used in furtherance of this conspiracy.

Vetromile faces between 7 and 12 years in state prison, with 5 years' post-release supervision. Colaneri and Crysel will each receive 4 to 12 years in state prison.

The case was prosecuted by Matthew Schwartz, Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau and Senior Assistant District Attorney Daniel Strollo of the Major Felony Bureau.

“The Monroe County District Attorney’s Office worked closely with our law enforcement partners throughout the county during this investigation and prosecution,” said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “These defendants targeted the inhabitants of Islamberg solely because of their religious beliefs. They will now serve well deserved prison sentences. Today’s plea sends a clear message that we will not tolerate hate in any form.”

All 3 defendants are scheduled for sentencing on August 8, 2019 before Judge Valleriani.

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