



Department of Justice

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COTTONWOOD MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR MAKING THREAT AGAINST NUCLEAR PLANT

Montgomery, Alabama — Anthony Paul Vincze, age 44, of Cottonwood, Alabama, was sentenced to 15 months in federal prison for threatening to drive a car bomb into the Farley Nuclear Plant earlier this year, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today. Vincze pled guilty to a single count of using a telephone to communicate a threat to damage or destroy a building by means of explosives, in violation of federal law.

Vincze was sentenced in United States District Court in Montgomery. On February 18, 2008, Vincze called the Farley Nuclear Plant in Houston County, Alabama, attempting to speak to an employee at the plant. When security officers refused to connect him, he became irate and threatened to drive a car bomb into the nuclear plant. The investigation revealed that Vincze was in Mississippi at the time he made the threat and took no steps towards carrying it out. However, using the telephone to threaten the use of a car bomb against a building is a federal crime. At his sentencing hearing, Vincze's attorney explained to the judge that he had an alcohol problem and was drinking at the time he made the call. A representative of the Farley Nuclear Plant also appeared and asked the judge to consider the seriousness of threats against the nuclear plant. She explained that threats such as the one Vincze made affect all of the employees at the plant and are more serious because of the dangerous nature of a nuclear power plant.

Vincze was sentenced to 15 months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. The judge also ordered Vincze to undergo treatment for his alcohol problem.

United States Attorney Leura G. Canary commented on Vincze's case, "A threat to use a car bomb against a nuclear power plant is a threat to the entire community. Sentencing Mr. Vincze to prison shows that threats to sensitive facilities such as nuclear power plants will be taken seriously. There is no such thing as a harmless threat when it involves explosives."

This case was investigated through the joint efforts of the Houston County Sheriff's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Matthew Shepherd.