

Department of Justice

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AMHERST MAN SENTENCED IN FIREARM CASE

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Ryan Amatuzio, 25, of Amherst, N.Y., who was convicted of unlawful possession of a firearm, was sentenced to 51 months in prison by U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Melissa M. Marangola, who handled the case, stated that in February 2011, the defendant physically assaulted his girlfriend at his Amherst residence and held her captive for several hours before letting her leave. During that time, Amatuzio threatened to kill his girlfriend with a gun. The girlfriend reported the incident to police and the defendant was arrested a few days later.

"One can only imagine how terrifying it is to be held at gunpoint," said U.S. Attorney Hochul. "Where federal statutes provide an effective means by which to punish this sort of despicable behavior, our Office will not hesitate to act."

The sentencing is the result of an investigation on the part of the Amherst Police Department, under the direction of Chief John Askey and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge Frank Christiano.

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