



Department of Justice

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TRENTON, GEORGIA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO BOMB THREAT

ROME, GA - MITCHELL ALAN SALMERON, 19, of Trenton, Georgia, pleaded guilty today in federal district court to threatening to blow up Dade County High School on January 26, 2006.

“The defendant in this case caused a disruption at the high school, which required local police and fire departments and the FBI to expend substantial resources to respond to and investigate the threat,” said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. “In the environment of heightened security awareness in which we live today, we will continue to prosecute hoaxes and false bomb threats to the fullest extent of the federal law.”

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court today: On the evening of January 26, 2006, the Dade County 911 Center in Trenton, Georgia received a telephone threat to detonate a bomb that had been planted in the county high school. The school, which was hosting a wrestling tournament that night, was evacuated and searched, but no explosive devices were found. Within hours, law enforcement agents had traced the call to SALMERON, who admitted that he made the call to help a friend avoid having to go to school the next day.

SALMERON was indicted in October 2006 on one count of using a means of interstate commerce – a telephone – to threaten to damage a building by means of an explosive device, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(e). He pleaded guilty to this single charge today. He could receive a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Sentencing is scheduled for April 12, 2007, at 2 p.m., before United States District Judge Robert L. Vining, Jr.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the FBI, the Trenton Police Department and the Dade County Sheriff's Office.

Assistant United States Attorney William G. Traynor is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.