

PRESS RELEASE

Domestic Terrorist Sentenced To More Than 19 Years In Prison For Firebombing University Police Car And Attempting To Firebomb Oakland Federal Building

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of California

OAKLAND – Casey Robert Goonan was sentenced today to 235 months in federal prison for committing a series of arsons and firebombings at the University of California, Berkeley and the Oakland federal building in June 2024. Senior U.S. District Judge Jeffrey S. White handed down the sentence.

In January 2025, Goonan, 35, of Oakland and Pleasant Hill, [pleaded guilty](#) to one count of maliciously damaging or destroying property used in or affecting interstate commerce by means of fire or an explosive.

According to a plea agreement filed in open court, in the early morning hours of June 1, 2024, Goonan placed a bag containing six explosive devices commonly known as “Molotov cocktails” underneath the fuel tank of a marked University of California Police Department (UCPD) patrol car parked near the UC Berkeley campus. Goonan lit the bag on fire and fled, causing the patrol car to catch on fire. A video capturing the events on the morning of June 1, 2024, can be viewed [here](#).

Goonan also attempted to firebomb the Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Oakland on June 11, 2024. Goonan arrived at the federal building carrying a bag containing three Molotov cocktails. Goonan threw rocks at the building, hoping to break a window in order to throw lit Molotov cocktails inside. That plan was disrupted by protective services officers. Upon fleeing from the officers, Goonan placed the Molotov cocktails in a planter on the side of building and lit them on fire.

In addition to these two attacks, Goonan set other fires on the UC Berkeley campus on June 1, June 13, and June 16, 2024.

Goonan acknowledged that these attacks were inspired by Hamas's Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel, and that he called on others to attack property on Bay Area college campuses in support of Palestine. Goonan admitted that his conduct was designed to influence and affect the conduct of governments by intimidation and coercion and to retaliate against the governments of the United States and the State of California for their conduct.

"Freedom of expression and peaceful protest are deeply enshrined values in America. We are all free to think what we want and express those views peacefully, but the use of violence to achieve political aims—or to silence those with whom you may disagree—has no place in our community and our country," said United States Attorney Craig H. Missakian. "Anyone who crosses the line between peaceful protest and violence will be met with the full force of the law."

"Safeguarding our communities from violence remains at the forefront of the FBI's mission. While free speech and peaceful protest are protected rights, turning to firebombs and arson crosses into criminal conduct that endangers lives and threatens public safety," said FBI Acting Special Agent in Charge Matt Cobo. "Today's sentencing makes clear that the FBI and our partners will not tolerate violence, and we will hold accountable anyone who seeks to harm our communities."

At sentencing, the Court referred to Goonan as a "domestic terrorist" and found that he had committed a felony offense that involved or was intended to promote a federal crime of terrorism.

In addition to the prison term, Judge White also ordered the defendant serve 15 years of supervised release after he is released from custody and ordered restitution in the amount of \$94,267.51 and a \$100 special assessment. The defendant has been in custody since his initial arrest on state charges on June 17, 2024.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Nikhil Bhagat is prosecuting the case with the assistance of Tina Rosenbaum. The prosecution is the result of an investigation by the FBI, ATF, the California Office of the State Fire Marshal, and UCPD.

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