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Inwood Man Held Over Suspected Manhattan Bomb Plot

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— Categories: Crime



An Inwood resident has been arrested and charged with federal offenses after allegedly planning a bombing in Manhattan using explosive devices he purchased online, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Michael Gann, identified by federal authorities as the suspect, is accused of constructing at least seven improvised explosive devices and plotting to use them in an attempted attack. He now faces several federal charges, the most serious being attempted destruction of property by means of explosives, which carries a maximum prison sentence of 20 years.

The U.S. Attorney's Office confirmed Gann's arrest and detailed a months-long investigation into his actions. Authorities allege that Gann ordered bomb-making materials over the internet and assembled several explosive devices with the intent to use them in a public setting.

Rooftop Stash

The charges stem from an incident earlier this year. In January, prosecutors say Gann stored at least five makeshift bombs, along with shotgun shells, on rooftops in the Soho neighborhood of Manhattan. Officials added that he allegedly threw at least one of the devices onto subway tracks near the Williamsburg Bridge.

While no explosions or injuries were reported, the U.S. Attorney's Office stated that Gann's actions showed a clear attempt to cause destruction using illegal explosives.

U.S. Attorney's Office said in a public statement that Gann is facing a number of federal charges for making at least seven explosive devices and planning to use them.

Public Safety Threat

Authorities say the situation posed a serious threat to public safety. The proximity of the devices to transit routes and dense urban areas raised concerns about potential casualties had the plan been carried out.

The case underscores growing concerns about the accessibility of dangerous materials online and the risks posed by individuals acting independently to build and deploy explosive devices.

Investigators have not released further details regarding Gann's motive or whether he had any accomplices. There is currently no indication that the attempted plot was linked to any known extremist groups or networks.

Gann's legal proceedings are expected to proceed in the coming days. The U.S. Attorney's Office has not announced a court date but confirmed the charges and potential penalties.

His arrest is the latest in a series of cases involving individuals allegedly attempting to use explosives in public areas. Prosecutors say they remain committed to identifying and stopping threats before they turn into tragedy.

The top charge against Gann, attempted destruction of property by means of explosives, highlights the seriousness of the case. If convicted, he could face up to two decades in federal prison.

Authorities continue investigating the full scope of Gann's activities and have not ruled out additional charges.