

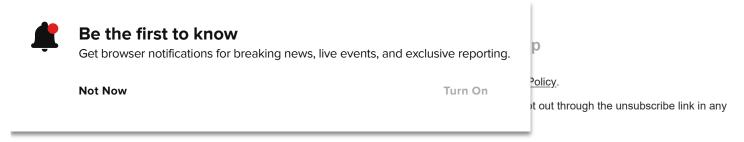
2 men sentenced for plot to support terrorists

MARCH 16, 2015 / 10:21 PM / AP

RIVERSIDE, Calif. - Two Southern California men who were recruited in a scheme to send them to <u>Afghanistan</u> to kill U.S. troops were sentenced Monday to federal prison for conspiring to provide material support to terrorists.

Miguel Alejandro Santana Vidriales, 24, of Upland, received a 10-year sentence and Arifeen David Gojali, 24, of Riverside, got five years, <u>the Riverside Press-Enterprise reported</u>. Each also will have a decade of supervised release.

Both had pleaded guilty to the conspiracy charges and cooperated with prosecutors.



The FBI began tracking the men and two others after Santana returned from visiting his mother in Mexico in 2012 with a copy of a <u>jihadist</u> magazine in his possession. They and a third man, Ralph Deleon, of Ontario, California, were arrested the same year as they headed to Mexico to catch a flight to the Middle East.



WATCH NOW

A fourth man, Sohiel Omar Kabir, of Pomona was later arrested in Afghanistan.

Prosecutors said Deleon, 26, and Kabir followed the teachings of violent jihad by Anwar al-Awlaki, a U.S.-born cleric who was a key al-Qaeda figure and was killed by a CIA drone strike in Yemen in 2011.

Kabir, 37, had converted Deleon and Santana to Islam after meeting them at a hookah bar. Deleon later recruited Gojali to the group.



Kabir, a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Afghanistan, was the ringleader and made arrangements for Deleon and the others to join him in his native country, prosecutors said.

Deleon, a citizen of the Philippines who was a lawful permanent U.S. resident, got the other men in shape, took them for target shooting practice with AK-47 assault rifles and prepared for combat by playing paintball, prosecutors said.

An FBI informant in the group secretly recorded their conversations.

Kabir and Deleon were convicted last fall of conspiracy. Last month, they were sentenced to 25 years each in federal prison.

Afghanistan: The New Reality

Live Updates: U.S. service members among those killed in attack near Kabul airport

Witness describes attempt to rescue baby after Kabul airport blast



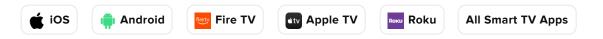
More →

First published on March 16, 2015 / 10:21 PM

© 2015 The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

Download our Free App

For Breaking News & Analysis Download the Free CBS News app



OCBS NEWS

Copyright © 2021 CBS Interactive Inc. All rights reserved.

Privacy Policy About

California Privacy/Information We Collect Advertise

Do Not Sell My Personal Information Closed Captioning

Ad Choice CBSN on Paramount+

Terms of Use CBS News Store

Mobile User Agreement Site Map



Be the first to know

Get browser notifications for breaking news, live events, and exclusive reporting.

Not Now Turn On