

Times Square plotter gets life sentence

Shahzad shows no remorse and says he did not mean it when he swore allegiance to the US.

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New York: The Pakistani immigrant who tried to set off a car bomb in Times Square was on Tuesday sentenced to life in prison — a mandatory penalty that left him defiant as ever and the judge who sentenced him determined to send a message to anyone who might want to follow in his path.

Faisal Shahzad came to court to tell Americans he felt no remorse about his May 1 bombing attempt, and he sparred with US District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum.

Cedarbaum said her sentence was very important "to protect the public from further crimes of this defendant and others who would seek to follow him."

Shahzad, 31, defended his attempt to kill Americans. During his statement before sentencing, Cedarbaum cut him off at one point to ask if he had sworn allegiance to the United States when the Pakistan-born Shahzad became an American citizen last year.

"I did swear but I did not mean it," Shahzad said.

"So you took a false oath," the judge told him.

Shahzad was arrested two days after a bomb in the back of a sport utility vehicle fizzled with a mere sputter of smoke, drawing the attention of a street vendor who alerted the police.

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