

Five found guilty in US bomb plot

By [Global Research](#)

Global Research, May 13, 2009

[Al-Jazeera](#) 12 May 2009

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Terrorism](#)

A US jury has convicted five men of plotting to blow up the Sears Tower building in Chicago and other US government buildings in 2006.

The guilty verdicts on Tuesday followed a three month trial and two previous trials which had ended in hung juries.

The group's leader, Narseal Batiste, was convicted on four counts of conspiracy and could be jailed for up to 70 years, while the others were convicted on lesser counts of conspiracy and a sixth man was acquitted.

Federal agents arrested the men, who became known as the Liberty City Six after the poor Miami neighbourhood where they met, in June 2006 in the city.

It followed a sting operation by the FBI in a case widely hailed by US authorities at the time as a victory in the then so-called war on terror.

The men's arrests had been announced in Washington at a news conference by Alberto Gonzalez, the then US attorney-general.

'Aspirational' plot

At the time, the authorities said the plot was "aspirational rather than operational", and that the men posed no real threat because they had neither al-Qaeda contacts nor the means of carrying out attacks.

Prosecution lawyers said the men had taken photos of possible targets and scouted out Miami's FBI headquarters and a courthouse, surveying entry ramps, surveillance cameras and guardhouses.

According to the prosecution, Batiste suggested an attack on the Sears Tower, America's tallest skyscraper.

However, the men's defence lawyers said they had been goaded into the plot with the help of informants who posed as Middle Eastern contacts and said the men had only gone along with the plot in an attempt to extract money from the informants.

The men are due to be sentenced on July 27.

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Global Research](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca