

Marylander charged with interstate transportation of stolen vehicle

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Greenbelt, MD - The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland has charged Rondell Henry, 28, of Germantown, Maryland, by criminal complaint with interstate transportation of a stolen vehicle. On Monday, April 8 the government filed a motion arguing for Henry to be detained pending trial as a flight risk and a danger to the community. Specifically, the government's detention memo alleges that Henry, who claimed to be inspired by the ISIS terrorist organization, stole a U-Haul van with the intention of using it as a weapon against pedestrians on sidewalks within the National Harbor complex along the Potomac River in Maryland. A detention hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9 at 12:45 p.m. in U.S. District Court in Greenbelt before U.S. Magistrate Judge Thomas M. DiGirolamo.

The criminal complaint was announced by United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Robert K. Hur; Acting Special Agent in Charge Jennifer L. Moore of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Baltimore Field Office; Chief Henry P. Stawinski III of the Prince George's County Police Department; Acting Chief Russell E. Hamill, III of the Montgomery County Police Department; and Chief Michael L. Brown of the City of Alexandria (Virginia) Police Department.

U.S. Attorney Robert K. Hur stated, "We continue to gather evidence, as well as review evidence already obtained as part of this ongoing investigation."

According to the criminal complaint and other court documents, on March 26, 2019, the Alexandria Police Department was contacted concerning a leased U-Haul vehicle that had been stolen from a parking garage at a mall in Alexandria, Virginia. The driver, who had rented the U-Haul vehicle had noticed a man driving a blue BMW follow the U-Haul off Interstate 395 and onto mall property, then follow the U-Haul into the parking garage and park a few spaces away. When police responded to the garage, they found the BMW near where the U-Haul had been stolen. A check of the BMW's registration records revealed that the BMW was registered to Rondell Henry.

On March 27, 2019, the stolen U-Haul was located at the National Harbor in Maryland. Law enforcement reviewed video surveillance of the area that showed Henry parking and subsequently exiting the stolen U-Haul. Henry was arrested the following day.

According to the detention memo, for two years, Henry has harbored "hatred" for those who do not practice the Muslim faith. Allegedly inspired by videos he watched of foreign terrorists, Henry decided to conduct a vehicular attack, similar to the 2016 truck attack in Nice, France, for which ISIS claimed responsibility. After stealing the van, Henry drove around, arriving at Dulles International Airport in Virginia at approximately 5:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 27, 2019. The government's motion for detention alleges that Henry exited his U-Haul and entered the terminal, trying to find a way through security, allegedly to harm "disbelievers" in a way designed for maximum publicity. After more than two hours of failing to breach Dulles's security perimeter, Henry allegedly returned to the U-Haul.

According to the motion for detention, Henry then drove the U-Haul from Virginia to the National Harbor in Maryland, arriving around 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 27. The motion for detention alleges that Henry parked the U-Haul and walked around a popular part of National Harbor. According to the motion for detention, Henry finally broke into a boat to hide overnight.

By the following morning, Thursday, March 28, police officers had discovered the location of the stolen U-Haul. When Henry leapt over the security fence from the boat dock, observant Prince George's County Police officers arrested him.

If convicted, Henry faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison for interstate transportation of a stolen vehicle.

A criminal complaint is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by criminal complaint is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

United States Attorney Robert K. Hur commended the FBI, the Prince George's County Police Department, the Montgomery County Police Department, and the City of Alexandria Police Department for their work in the investigation. Mr. Hur thanked his office's national security prosecutors, who are handling the case.

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