



PRESS RELEASE

Two Illinois Men Sentenced for Actions During Jan. 6 Capitol Breach

Thursday, September 7, 2023

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, District of
Columbia

Defendants Are Brothers Who Assaulted Officers

WASHINGTON – Two Illinois men were sentenced to prison on Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023, after they both pleaded guilty to a felony charge related to their actions during the breach of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Their actions and the actions of others disrupted a joint session of the U.S. Congress convened to ascertain and count the electoral votes related to the 2020 presidential election.

Daniel Leyden, 55, of Chicago, Illinois, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Trevor N. McFadden to 38 months in prison and 12 months of supervised release. His brother Joseph Leyden, 56, of La Grange, Illinois, was sentenced to six months in prison and 12 months of supervised release by Judge McFadden. Both Leydens pleaded guilty to one count of assaulting, resisting, or impeding law enforcement officers on May 24, 2023.

According to court documents, Daniel and Joseph Leyden were among the rioters who were illegally on the Capitol grounds on Jan. 6, 2021. Shortly after 12:50 p.m., Daniel Leyden was at the front of the crowd that confronted law enforcement officers at metal barricades near the Peace Circle. Daniel Leyden and other rioters repeatedly lifted and pushed a metal barricade into the U.S. Capitol Police officers defending the line. Daniel Leyden's actions caused a U.S.

Capitol Police officer to fall backward, injuring the officer's knee and pinning the officer under the barricade.

At the same time, several other officers were also assaulted by the rioters with the barricade, including one who was knocked unconscious and suffered a concussion. Daniel Leyden's actions contributed to injuries that these officers sustained and prevented officers from defending themselves and providing aid to one another. Daniel Leyden and other rioters then swarmed past the police.

Joseph Leyden was among rioters at the West Plaza at the Capitol, where at approximately 1:14 p.m., rioters began to pull other metal barriers into the crowd, compromising the ability of law enforcement officers to re-establish a perimeter. Joseph Leyden advanced and rushed towards an officer with the Metropolitan Police Department. He then lunged at and pushed the officer.

This case was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia and the Department of Justice National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section. Valuable assistance was provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois.

This case was investigated by the FBI's Chicago Field Office and the FBI's Washington Field Office, which identified Daniel Leyden as #438 and Joseph Leyden as #386 on its seeking information photos. Valuable assistance was provided by the U.S. Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department.

In the 32 months since Jan. 6, 2021, more than 1,146 individuals have been arrested in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including more than 398 individuals charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement.

Anyone with tips can call 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324) or visit tips.fbi.gov.

Updated September 7, 2023

Topic

VIOLENT CRIME

Components

[Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\)](https://www.fbi.gov) | [USAO - District of Columbia](https://www.usdoj.gov/dco) | [USAO - Illinois, Northern](https://www.usdoj.gov/illinois)

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PRESS RELEASE

Guilty Plea in Theft and Sale of Hundreds of Government-Issued Phones and Computers Slated for Destruction

Nikhil Parekh, 37, of Randallstown, Maryland, pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in connection with the theft and sale of hundreds of government-issued smartphones, laptop computers, and other IT...

February 4, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

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Parren Hawkins, 33, of Washington, D.C., was charged today in Superior Court with armed carjacking in connection with an incident, yesterday, in Northeast D.C. The charge was announced by U.S...

February 3, 2025

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Darius Anderson, 23, of Washington, DC, was sentenced today to 32 years of in prison for first-degree murder while armed and related offenses in the June 2022 killing of 30-year...

January 31, 2025

**District of Columbia**

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