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Telegram & Gazette

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Mastermind gets life in fatal Boston bombing

The Associated Press

BOSTON — A man who says he's innocent was sentenced to life in prison yesterday for a 1991 bombing that killed a police officer.

Alfred Trenkler, 37, made an impassioned plea before he was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Rya Zobel.

"I played no part in this heinous crime. I would not could not contemplate any plan to kill anyone," Trenkler said.

"The government chose to ignore the obvious and instead the case was tried on boundless theory," Trenkler said.

Trenkler, an electrical engineer, apologized to the families of slain bomb squad Officer Jeremiah Hurley and Hurley's partner, Francis

X. Foley, who was maimed in the explosion.

"I am sorry for their losses, but I also call for revenge. I swear to God, I have played no part in this crime. I am an innocent man," he said.

But Zobel called the crime premeditated and said Trenkler deserved a stiff sentence.

"This was a horrendous crime in which an innocent officer was literally torn apart," Zobel said.

Trenkler's attorney, Terry Segal, said the charges were based on theory, not fact.

He said the only direct evidence was a government witness who testified that Trenkler said, "I built the bomb."

Prosecutor Frank Libby Jr. said

the acts were "deliberate, premeditated and malicious." He said Trenkler had "ample opportunity to reflect on the seriousness of the crime and he did reflect and yet he went ahead and did so with malice aforethought."

Trenkler said the real bomber was still at large.

"I have fear as more time goes by there will be less chance to find the man or those responsible for this crime," Trenkler said.

Trenkler was convicted last year of masterminding the bombing.

Prosecutors said he and Thomas Shay planted the bomb in an attempt to kill Shay's father for insurance money and revenge.

Shay was convicted in the bombing last year and sentenced to 17½ years in prison.

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