NEWS

Judge takes 10 years off mobster's sentence for sharing info on Oklahoma City bombing

By Emily Saul

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Photo: Shutterstock

A Brooklyn federal judge shaved 10 years off the prison sentence of a notorious convicted mobster, citing the fact that the Colombo soldier tipped off the FBI about a hidden stash of explosives they'd missed in the basement of Oklahaoma City bomber Terry Nichols during a 1995 search.

Nevertheless, 64-year-old Gregory Scarpa Jr. may not live to enjoy his newfound freedom, Justice Edward Korman notes in his Monday decision.

Scarpa — now due for release in 2025 — suffers from "nasopharyngeal squamous cell cancer," which court papers say will probably kill him within the next five years.

"By the time he is released, assuming he lives that long, he will have served the maximum sentence for his conviction for RICO conspiracy to commit murder — the most serious offense for which he was sentenced," Korman writes.

Scarpa was sentenced to 40 years in 1999.

He is the son of well-known Colombo family capo Gregory "Grim-Reaper" Scarpa, who also later became a jailhouse snitch.

Scarpa Jr. ratted to the government about Nicols' stockpiled explosives after learning about them while the duo did time together in Colorado's Supermax prison in 2005. Scarpa also fed the FBI information about 1993 World Trade Cener bomber Ramzi Youseff.

But Korman says he hopes rewarding Scarpa for coming forward will encourage others to do the same.

"Incarcerated individuals, as a group, are not motivated to provide assistance without some realistic hope of attaining some benefit," he wrote.

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