

# Immigration detains family of man charged in Colo. attack

**BOULDER, Colo.** (AP) The wife and five children of the man accused of throwing Molotov cocktails at demonstrators in Boulder calling for the release of Israeli hostages in Gaza, injuring 12 of them, were being taken into custody by federal immigration authorities Tuesday, officials said.

Mohamed Sabry Soliman, who was disguised as a gardener, had 18 Molotov cocktails and had planned to kill all the demonstrators but apparently had second thoughts, throwing just two during Sunday's attack in which he yelled "Free Palestine," police said. Soliman, 45, didn't carry out his full plan "because he got scared and had never hurt anyone before," police wrote in an affidavit.

The two incendiary devices he did throw at the group of about 20 people staging their weekly demonstration were enough to injure more than half of them, and authorities said he expressed no regrets about the attack.

Federal officials are investigating whether Soliman's family knew about his plan, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem said in a post on X.

Soliman — an Egyptian national who is in the U.S. illegally, according to federal officials — told authorities that



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From left, Lisa Turnquist and Carrie Spyva-McIlvaine place a bouquet of flowers at a growing memorial outside of the Boulder County, Colo., courthouse after Sunday's attack in Boulder, Colo., on Monday.

no one, including his family, knew about his plans, according to court documents.

He planned the attack for more than a year and specifically targeted what he described as a "Zionist group," authorities said in court papers charging him with a federal hate crime. His name is first spelled Mohammed in some court documents.

"When he was interviewed about the attack, he said he wanted them all to die, he had no regrets, and he would go back and do it again," Colorado's acting U.S. attorney, J. Bishop Grewell, said during a news conference Monday.

Federal and state prosecutors filed separate criminal cases against Soliman, charging him

with a hate crime and attempted murder, respectively. He faces additional state charges related to the incendiary devices, and more charges are possible in federal court, where the Justice Department will seek a grand jury indictment.

Soliman is being held on a \$10 million bond. His attorney, Kathryn Herold, declined to comment Monday after a hearing where he appeared before a state judge. His next hearing is Thursday.

Soliman has been living in the U.S. illegally, having entered the country in August 2022 on a B-2 visa that expired in February 2023, Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a post on X. She said

Soliman filed for asylum in September 2022 and was granted a work authorization in March 2023, but that it also expired. DHS did not respond to requests for additional information.

According to an FBI affidavit, Soliman left an iPhone hidden in a desk drawer at his Colorado Springs home that contained messages to his family. After his arrest, his wife brought the phone to the local police department, saying it was his but was also used by other members of the family.

According to the affidavit, Soliman also told the police he was driven by a desire "to kill all Zionist people" — a reference to the movement to establish and protect a Jewish state in Israel.

The attack at the popular Pearl Street pedestrian mall in downtown Boulder unfolded against the backdrop of the Israel-Hamas war, which continues to inflame global tensions and has contributed to a spike in antisemitic violence in the United States. The attack happened at the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Shavuot and barely a week after a man who also yelled "Free Palestine" was charged with fatally shooting two Israeli Embassy staffers outside a Jewish museum in Washington.

## Six victims hospitalized

The victims ranged in age from 52 to 88, and their injuries spanned from serious to minor, officials said.

Six victims were initially taken to a hospital, and three remained hospitalized Tuesday at the UHealth University of Colorado Hospital on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, hospital spokesperson Kelli Christensen said. She declined to provide information on their conditions and said they had requested privacy.

Members of the volunteer group called Run For Their Lives were attacked while holding their weekly demonstration. Video captured by witness Alex Osante of San Diego shows people pouring water on a woman lying on the ground who Osante said had caught fire during the attack.

## Molotov cocktails found

Osante said that after the assailant threw the two incendiary devices, apparently catching himself on fire as he threw the second, he took off his shirt and what appeared to be a bulletproof vest before police arrived. The man dropped to the ground and was arrested

without any apparent resistance in the video Osante filmed.

The Molotov cocktails were made up of glass wine carafe bottles or jars with clear liquid and red rags hanging out of the them, the FBI said.

"He stated that he had been planning the attack for a year and was waiting until after his daughter graduated to conduct the attack," the affidavit says.

He had gas in a backpack sprayer but told investigators he didn't spray it on anyone but himself "because he had planned on dying."

Soliman also told investigators that he took a concealed-carry class and tried to buy a gun but was denied because he isn't a U.S. citizen.

Authorities said they believe Soliman acted alone. He was also injured and taken to a hospital. Authorities did not elaborate on the nature of his injuries, but a booking photo showed him with a large bandage over one ear.

Soliman, who was born in Egypt, moved three years ago to Colorado Springs, where he lived with his wife and five children, according to court documents. He previously spent 17 years living in Kuwait.

# Man accused of trying to get witness against him deported

**MILWAUKEE** (AP) A Wisconsin man is facing charges accusing him of forging a letter threatening President Donald Trump's life in an effort to get another man who could testify against him in a criminal case deported.

Prosecutors said in a criminal complaint filed Monday that Demetric D. Scott was behind a letter sent to state and federal officials with the return address and name of Ramón Morales Reyes.

Scott was charged Monday with felony witness intimidation, identity theft and two counts of bail jumping. A court commissioner set a \$30,000 cash bail for him during his initial court appearance Tuesday and scheduled a preliminary hearing for June 10.

Scott's attorney, listed in online court records as public defender Alexander Kostal, declined comment when reached by phone Tuesday, referring questions to the state public defender's headquarters in Madison. The office's legislative liaison, Steve Knudson, declined comment when reached by phone.

Immigration agents arrested Morales Reyes, 54, on May 21 after he dropped his child off at school in Milwaukee. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem announced the arrest, saying he had written a letter threatening to kill Trump and would "self-deport" to Mexico. The announcement, which also was posted by the White House on its social media accounts, contained an image of the letter as well as a photo of Morales Reyes.

But the claim started to unravel as investigators talked to Morales Reyes, who doesn't speak English fluently, and obtained a handwriting sample from him that was different

from the handwriting in the letters, according to court documents.

Morales Reyes is listed as a victim in the case involving Scott, who is awaiting trial in Milwaukee County Jail on armed robbery and aggravated battery charges. The trial is scheduled for July.

According to a criminal complaint and an information, another form of a charging document, Scott knocked a man identified by the initials R.M. off his bicycle in Milwaukee in September 2023, cut him with a box cutter and then rode off on R.M.'s bike.

R.M. was taken to a hospital and treated for what the documents called "a small laceration" that did not require stitches. Police arrested Scott a few hours after the alleged robbery. According to the documents, he told investigators that he saw a man riding his bicycle,

he wanted it back and he may have struck the man with a corkscrew.

Scott's attorney in the robbery case, Robert Hampton III, didn't return an email seeking comment.

Law enforcement officers listened to several calls Scott made from the jail in which he talked about letters that needed to be mailed and a plan to get someone picked up by Immigration and Customs Enforcement so Scott's trial could get dismissed, according to the criminal complaint. He

also admitted to police that he wrote the letters, documents said.

Morales Reyes works as a dishwasher in Milwaukee, where he lives with his wife and three children. He had recently applied for a U visa, which is for people in the country illegally who become victims of serious crimes, said attorney Kime Abdul, who filed that application.

Abdul told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Monday that she was glad Morales Reyes was being cleared of any involvement in the letter writing.

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