



Albany: a bomb in a food delivery bag

A 35-year-old is charged with plotting to bomb the New York State Capitol and kill state senators. She lived under two miles away and walked round the building five times, photographing it and marking where the device would go.

INCIDENT DETAILS • 5WH

Who Jessica Bowie, 35, of Albany, charged with attempting to provide material support to Daesh. She has not been convicted.

What A disrupted plot to place an IED at the State Capitol. Prosecutors quote her wanting to destroy as much of the building as possible and kill senators.

Where The New York State Capitol, Albany. Her home was less than two miles away.

When Contact with an FBI source 16 Jul to 17 Aug 2026; five site visits from 21 Jul; arrested 19 Aug.

Why Stated support for Daesh. Prosecutors say she intended to flee to territory held by the group in Syria.

How Carry the device in a food delivery bag and pass as a courier at a public entrance. Casualties - none; the device was inert.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

21 Jul-17 Aug Five visits to the Capitol, all on camera

5 Aug Buys nails at a hardware store, recorded

19 Aug Arrested taking possession of an inert device

- 1 An online pledge of allegiance, then contact
- 2 Five reconnaissance visits, photographs sent
- 3 The cover chosen: a food delivery courier
- 4 Components bought; a handgun requested
- 5 Arrested on taking the inert device

IMPACT

- Human: none. No functional device ever existed and the materials supplied to her were inert.
- Access control: the plan turned on reaching a public entrance as a delivery courier and leaving a bag - a screening and staff-behaviour problem, not a perimeter one.
- Legislatures: a seat of government named as a target, with the stated aim of killing legislators in session and destroying records.
- Propaganda: a disrupted plot still supplies claimable intent against a Western legislature and models a mundane delivery method.

ASSESSMENT, LESSONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The delivery courier cover is the transferable idea - the one visitor nobody examines.
- Reconnaissance was recorded and not acted on at the time; footage became evidence, not warning.
- A sting proves intent, not capability, and both matter separately.
- Legislatures are open by obligation, so the control is layered screening rather than closure.