

HATE-FILLED VIOLENCE THWARTED ONCE AGAIN

WELL DONE

It is tempting to reduce the two men accused of planning a terrorist assault on a Seattle military recruiting station to a hapless penniless duo with an ill-fated plan built on stupidity.

Plenty of evidence for that view. One of the men, Khalid Abdul-Latif, also known as Joseph Anthony Davis, filed for bankruptcy and spent recent weeks shopping for guns and grenades while dodging creditors and drumming up customers for his cleaning and de-tailing business.

The other man, Wali Mjahidh, aka Frederick Domingue Jr., is accused by his estranged wife of domestic violence. The two could not even persuade a five-time felon to join their plot. The would-be third partner listened to their plan and promptly contacted the Seattle Police. Good for him.

These two may be hapless, but charging papers show they are also dangerous. Had the crimes come to fruition, the loss of life and property could have been catastrophic. Both face conspiracy charges, including intent to murder U.S. officers, use a weapon of mass destruction and other firearms-related charges.

The deadly potential of their plan is sobering. Along with hundreds of recruiting-center employees, the targeted building included a child-care facility with 50 children. In choosing from an array of weapons supplied by the would-be accomplice-turned-informant, Abdul-Latif chose an M16-style not win.

A combustible mix of aimlessness and anger about U.S. involvement in Afghanistan fueled the plot, according to the federal complaint. Abdul-Latif is said to admire Osama bin Laden. That is ironic considering bin Laden's terrorism has killed more Muslims than U.S. military efforts have.

Law enforcement deserves tremendous credit for vigilance and smart detective work in uncovering this plot and others since 9/11.

The vast majority of Muslims have no propensity for the hate-filled violence espoused by Abdul-Latif and Mjahidh. Their arrests should not stir up anti-Muslim rhetoric. An entire group of people do not deserve demonization. But the public is right to be reminded of a violent, extreme version of Islamic ideology and the need for vigilance against it.

The two had hoped to inspire an uprising among radical Muslims in the U.S. Judging from the reactions of Muslims and non-Muslims in this region, what they really accomplished was a rekindling of our determination that hate will not win.