



Iowa Man Sentenced to 15 Year in Prison for the 'Hate Crime' of Burning a LGBTQ Flag

Iowa: Adolfo Martinez, 30, was sentenced to more than 15 years in prison for a hate crime after lighting a local church's LGBTQ flag on fire. The maximum sentence for the hate crime was five years, but extra time was added because he was a repeat offender. He was also sentenced to one year in prison for reckless use of fire and was sentenced to another 30 days for harassment. GEG

An Iowa man will spend up to 16 years behind bars for stealing a pride flag from an Iowa church and setting it on fire – a sentence that even a local LGBTQ group says might be excessive, according to a new report.

Adolfo Martinez, 30, of Ames, was sentenced Wednesday for stealing the pride banner hanging at Ames Church of Christ back in June – and then burning it with lighter fluid and a lighter outside the Dangerous Curves Gentleman's Club, [The Des Moines Register reported](#).

Martinez admitted he did it because he opposes homosexuality, and a jury convicted him last month, [according to NBC News](#).

"I burned down their pride, plain and simple," Martinez [told](#)

[local outlet KCCI](#) back in June.

He was sentenced to 15 years for arson as a hate crime, one year for reckless use of explosives or fire and 30 days for harassment, according to the report.

Courtney Reyes, executive director of the statewide LGBTQ group One Iowa, told the network she appreciates how seriously the case was handled, but added the imposed sentence might actually be taking things too far.

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Additional source:

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/10593862/homophobe-jailed-16-years-lgbtq-flag-fire/>