

NAJIBULLAH ZAZI: ANOTHER COUNTERTERRORISM VICTORY FOR CIVILIAN LAW

The AP is reporting that Najibullah Zazi, who was arrested last September as he was preparing to deploy bombs made out of beauty supply derived TATP, will plead guilty later today.

Which means that less than a year after a person allegedly trained in Pakistani al Qaeda-affiliated training camps tried to attack in the US, he will start serving time for his crimes.

Meanwhile, a bunch of other Afghan and Pakistani-trained alleged terrorists rot away in Gitmo because Lindsey Graham has a fetish for military commissions.

As Jeralyn notes,

So he had lawyers from day 1, waived his Miranda rights, wasn't tortured, and is now cooperating and pleading guilty. He's going to get a reduced sentence in exchange for his cooperation. The U.S. gets the benefit of his knowledge. He gets punished and incarcerated.

All of this in a federal criminal court with him being provided his full panoply of constitutional rights.

This is the same scenario that will play out with Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab. The same can and should be done with the 9/11 defendants.

Can we stop playing this counter-productive charade with military commissions now?