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Canadian pleads guilty in plot to attack parliament



AFP Photo: A policeman stands on Parliament Hill in 2007 in Ottawa. A Canadian man has plead...

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What's this

alleged plot.

OTTAWA (AFP) - A Canadian man has plead guilty to participating in a jihadist terror plot three years ago to attack the Canadian parliament and take the prime minister hostage, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Saad Khalid is the first adult in the group to admit a role in the

He entered a guilty plea in a Brampton courtroom on Monday, but a publication ban ordered by the court prevented its publication until now.

"He has plead guilty," a spokesman for the Public Prosecution Service of Canada told AFP.

Khalid was part of a group of 18 Canadian Muslims arrested in mid-2006 in Toronto, accused of planning attacks in that city and in Ottawa, and having ties to jihadists in Pakistan.

He himself faced two charges of "knowingly participating in or contributing to ... activities of a terrorist group ... (enabling it) to carry out a terrorist activity," and intending to cause a deadly and destructive explosion, said an indictment.

The group allegedly planned to attack the Canadian parliament and to take hostages, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, to force Canada to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan.

Prosecutors said the group wanted to obtain three tonnes of ammonium nitrate, a fertilizer that can be used to make explosives.

But after the arrests, authorities dropped charges against seven of the suspects, and they were freed.

In September, one of the youngest of the group whose name cannot be revealed because of his age, was found guilty of terrorist activities. He is now 20 and remains in prison.

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Nine others also remain in custody awaiting trial.

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