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Leader of Nationwide Hate Group Convicted Of Attempting to Distribute Antisemitic Materials

The leader of a notorious nationwide hate group is now serving a jail sentence for attempting to throw antisemitic materials at homes in Palm Beach County. It appears to be the first, or among the first, successful prosecutions of its kind in the country, State Attorney Dave Aronberg announced.

Jon Eugene Minadeo, 40, has been convicted by a Florida jury of a misdemeanor charge of attempted dumping of litter. The punishment: 30 days in the county jail. Two codefendants in the case were previously convicted and are serving sentences of probation and other penalties.

“For the first time since this group started to distribute horrific antisemitic flyers, the leader of this group has been jailed,” Aronberg said. “I hope that we will become a model for how other communities deal with this problem.”

These individuals had told West Palm Beach police that they had a right to throw these flyers on private property. But they were charged under a state law that makes the attempted dumping of 15 pounds or more of litter a misdemeanor, rather than a noncriminal infraction.

The content of the materials did not come into play in Minadeo’s trial, due to a ruling by the judge.

“The antisemitism was kept out of it. This was a case of dumping litter,” Aronberg said, warning that future violators could be prosecuted under a new, tougher state law against such hate speech.