

Church Spared From Radical Racist's Hatred for Drag Queens

A radical eastern Ohio youth says he attempted to burn down a church in Chesterland to prevent a drag queen show from taking place there.

"Aimenn Penny, 20, from Alliance, who claims to be a member of a 'white lives matter' group that espouses racist and neo-Nazi views, told investigators that he used Molotov cocktails because he wanted to 'protect the children and stop the drag show event' scheduled to take place at Community Church of Chesterland in late March," the National Post reported.

Penny also told investigators that he regretted his attempt to burn the church "didn't work."

Chesterland is a small community east of Cleveland.

FBI investigators said the church was unoccupied at the time of the attack and it sustained minimal damage, including scorch marks at the front door.

 Local police arrested Penny on March 31, and he remains in custody. Penny's attorney, John Graven, refused to comment on his client's charges. Penny is being charged with violating the Church Arson Prevention Act, using fire to commit a felony, the malicious use of explosive materials and possessing a destructive device.

He faces up to 50 years in prison if he is convicted on all accounts, The National Post reported. {eo}

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Shawn A. Akers is the online editor at *Charisma Media*.