Ex-Trump lawyer Cohen gets 3 years in prison

By LARRY NEUMEISTER and TOM HAYS Associated Press

NEW YORK — Michael Cohen, who as President Donald Trump's personal lawyer and fixer once vowed he would "take a bullet" for his boss, was sentenced today to three years in prison for an array of crimes that included arranging the payment of hush money to two women that he says was done at the direction of Trump.

The sentence was in line with what federal prosecutors asked for. Sentencing guidelines called for around four to five years behind bars, and prosecutors asked in court papers that Cohen be given only a slight break.

U.S. District Judge Wil-

liam H. Pauley III said Cohen deserved modest credit for his decision over the summer to admit guilt and cooperate in a federal investigation of efforts by Russians to influence the presidential election, but his assistance "does not wipe the slate clean."

"Somewhere along the way Mr. Cohen appears to have lost his moral compass," the judge said. "As a lawyer, Mr. Cohen should have known better."

Cohen told the judge just before he was sentenced that loyalty to Trump led him astray.

"It was my blind loyalty to this man that led me to take a path of darkness instead of light," he said. "I felt it was my duty to cover up his dirty deeds.

Cohen's lawyers had



AP Photo/Julio Cortez

Michael Cohen, right, arrives at federal court with his daughter, Samantha Cohen, center, and son, Jake Cohen.

argued for leniency, saying he decided to cooperate with investigators rather than hold out for a possible pardon.

"He came forward to offer evidence against the most powerful person in our country," Cohen's lawyer, Guy Petrillo, told the judge during the hearing.

Cohen, 52, pleaded guilty in August to evading \$1.4 million in taxes related to his personal businesses. In the part of the case with greater political repercussions, he also admitted breaking campaign finance laws in arranging payments in the waning days of the 2016 election to porn star Stormy Daniels and Playboy model Karen McDougal, both of whom said they had sexual encounters with Trump.

Cohen became the first and so far, only - member of Trump's circle during two years of investigations to go into open court and implicate the president in a crime, though whether a president can be prosecuted is a matter of legal dispute.

Last month, Cohen also pleaded guilty to lying to Congress about Trump's business dealings in Russia. He admitted hiding the fact that he was negotiating a proposal to build a Trump skyscraper in Moscow well into the presidential campaign. He said he lied out of devotion to Trump, who had insisted during the campaign that he had no business ties whatsoever to Russia.

The sentence was the culmination of a spectacular rise and fast fall of a lawyer who attached himself to the fortunes of his biggest client, helped him get elected president, then turned on him, cooperating with two interconnected investigations: one run by federal prosecutors in New York, the other by special counsel Robert Mueller, who is looking into Russian efforts to influence the race for the White House.

At the sentencing hearing, a prosecutor in Mueller's office, Jeannie Rhee, said Cohen has "sought to tell us the truth and that is of the utmost value to us."

"He has provided consistent and credible information about core Russia-related issues under investigation," she said without elaborating.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Flynn's lawyers say his lie to FBI 'uncharacteristic'

WASHINGTON - Lawyers for President Donald Trump's former national security adviser Michael Flynn are asking a judge to spare him prison time, saying he had devoted his career to his country and taken responsibility for an "uncharacteristic error in judgment.'

The arguments to the judge Tuesday echoed those of special counsel Robert Mueller's office, which last week said Flynn's cooperation — including 19 meetings with investigators — was so extensive that he was entitled to avoid a prison sentence.

Flynn, who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about conversations during the presidential transition period with the then-Russian ambassador to the United States, will next week become the first White House official punished in the special counsel's ongoing probe into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia during the 2016 presidential election.

Flynn's absence from the public eye, despite entreaties from supporters to take an aggressive stance against the Russia investigation, has made him a source of continuing intrigue. His sentencing has the makings of a bookend moment for the investigation given that Flynn — a visible presence on the campaign trail, in high-level transition talks and in the chaotic early days of the administration - was an early, and pivotal, part of the case who appeared to enjoy the president's sympathy even after his departure from the White nn's December 2016 phone discussions of Obama administration sanctions with Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak, conversations that triggered intelligence community alarms and led to his ouster from the administration after officials said he had lied to them about the communications.

France: Massive manhunt for gunman after attack

STRASBOURG, France — A massive manhunt involving hundreds of police and soldiers was underway today for a suspected extremist who yelled "God is great!" in Arabic during a shooting spree around one of Europe's most famous Christmas markets. The assault in the eastern French city of Strasbourg killed two, left one person brain dead and injured 12 others, authorities said.

Police union officials identified the suspected assailant as Frenchman Cherif Chekatt, a 29-year-old with a thick police record for crimes including armed robbery and monitored as a suspected religious radical by the French intelligence services. His parents and two brothers, also known for radicalism, have been detained.

Reflecting Strasbourg's international nature, the dead included a Thai tourist, and an Italian was reportedly among the wounded. The U.S. government, among others, warned citizens in the area to be vigilant. The city is home to the European Parliament and considers itself a capital of Europe — and promotes itself as the "capital of Christmas.

tor Remy Heitz said Chekatt was shot in the arm during an exchange of fire with French soldiers during his rampage in the city center on Tuesday. He then took a taxi to another part of the city, boasting of the attack to the driver. There, he exchanged more gunfire with police and disappeared.

The attack is a new blow to France, which saw a wave of Islamic extremist killings in 2015 and 2016. It came amid a month of protests against President Emmanuel Macron that have blocked roads around the country, led to rioting in the capital and put heavy strain on police.

Ex-judges: End immigration arrests at courthouses

BOSTON - Dozens of retired state and federal judges called today on U.S. immigration officials to stop making arrests at courthouses of people suspected of being in the country illegally, saying immigrants should be free to visit halls of justice without fearing they will be detained.

Nearly 70 former judges from 23 states including federal judges and state supreme court justices — said in a letter sent to Acting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Ronald Vitiello that courthouse arrests are disrupting the criminal justice system.

The judges are urging Vitiello to add courthouses to the list of so-called "sensitive locations" that are generally free from immigration enforcement, like schools and places of worship. They say that only "unequivocal guarantees and protections will restore the public's confidence that it can safely pursue justice in our nation's courts."

Immigration officials have said communities are forcing their hand by refusing to transfer immigrants in local prisons and jails to ICE custody. They also argue that courthouse arrests are safer for agents because people have to go through metal detectors when they enter courthouses.

ICE says it's going into courthouses only for certain targets, like gang members and public safety threats and immigrants who have been previously deported or ordered to leave.

UN chief calls for compromise and sacrifice at climate talks

KATOWICE, Poland - The United Nations secretary-general called on countries to make compromises and sacrifices in talks over tackling global warming, as some observers warned the meeting in Poland could collapse without an agreement on key issues

Making his second dramatic appeal in the space of 10 days, Antonio Guterres told ministers and senior diplomats from almost 200 countries that they should consider the fate of future generations.

His call came as the two-week meeting in Katowice shifted from the technical to political phase, with ministers taking over negotiations.

Campaign groups warned of the risks of failure and accused powerful players such as the European Union of not pushing hard enough to reach an agreement.

"A new leadership must step up," said Vanessa Perez-Cirera of the environmental group WWF. "We cannot afford to lose one of the twelve years we have remaining."

House.

Some 720 members of the security forces Central to the investigation are Fly- were hunting for the gunman today. Prosecu-

THE DAILY **Evening listings** ASTORIAN WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY EVENING					A - Charter Astoria/ Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach							D	ECEMBER 12
Α	L	6 рм	6:30	7 РМ	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 рм	9:30	10 рм	10:30	11 рм	11:30
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8 KGW		KGW News at 6:00		Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	GameGames "Holio	day Spectacular" (N)	BigShot "Little Big	Holiday Special" (N)	Legendary Christm	nas	News (N)	(:35) Tonight Show
S KRCW	3	Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs		River "Chapter Fort		All American "Hom	necoming"	News (N)	Friends	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
KOPB	(10)	Journeys in Japan	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Nature		Nova "Ultimate Cru	ise Ship"	Ancient Invisible C	ities "Athens"	City in the Sky "De	eparture"
E KPTV	(12)	6 O'Clock News (N)	•	Family Feud	Family Feud	Empire "Pay for The	eir Presumptions"	Star "Who's the Da	ddy"	10 O'Clock News (N)	News (N)	Page Six TV
KPDX	•	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Prime News (N)	•	Prime News (N)	*	Big Bang Theory	Family Guy	American Dad!	The Game 2/2
C KCPQ	(13)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Empire "Pay for The	eir Presumptions"	Star "Who's the Da	ddy"	Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)	News (N)	The Simpsons
20 TBS		Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal (N)	Full Frontal	Movie
KZJO		Black-ish	Black-ish	Mom	Modern Family	Mom	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
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		NCAA Basketball Lo				SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter With	Scott Van Pelt (N)	Baseball Tonight		NBA Basketball Ok	
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36 LIFE		A Twist of Christma					mas ('18, Rom) Gloria					n) Brendan Fehr, Kim	Fields, Tatyana Ali.
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53 FOOD		Guy's Grocery Gam	les	Guy's Game "Big B		Guy's Grocery Gan			nate Beef Battle" (N)			Game "Dashing Th	
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56 FX						Trolls (2016, Animated) Justin Timberlake,							
57 CNN 58 FNC								Anderson Cooper 360				CNN Tonight With	
61 CNBC								Tucker Carlson Tonight Deal or No Deal "Family Value\$"		Hannity Deal or No Deal "I'm Dancin' Here!"		The Ingraham Ang	Paid Program
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