

Alleged sex trafficker wanted girl murdered



Gary Craig, @gcraig1 11:40 a.m. EST February 10, 2015



(Photo: Hemera Technologies / www.jupiterimages.com)

A Rochester man has admitted that he conspired to murder a 15-year-old sex trafficking victim.

Robert Palermo, 31, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Frank Geraci Jr. Monday.

Palermo, who is jailed on pending sex trafficking charges, spoke over the telephone and wrote to "multiple individuals" about a plot to kill the trafficking victim, who was expected to testify against him, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Marangola.

Court records show that Palermo allegedly told an inmate at the Monroe County Jail that he wanted the girl to "disappear forever." He also allegedly told the same inmate that he wanted another possible witness to "disappear," and said "a wood chipper would be nice."

Another inmate also told police that Palermo wanted likely witnesses, including the 15-year-old, "offed," according to an affidavit by FBI Special Agent Robert Culpepper.

Court records show that Palermo is also considering a plea agreement in the pending sex trafficking case.

He is scheduled to be sentenced May 14.

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