

A self-styled Satanist who threatened to blow up Celtic Park and shoot the club's former goalkeeper Artur Boruc has been jailed for two years. Alan Linton from Carlisle also admitted his hate mail campaign included threats to kill singer Cheryl Cole. At the High Court

in Edinburgh, judge Lady Smith rejected imposing a lifelong restriction order after being told the 32-year-old posed a medium risk.

She backdated sentence to January, meaning Linton could be free in months.

Racist statements

Linton, who has a history of mental illness, earlier admitted seven charges of sending threatening letters between 1 April and 25 June last year.

The first letter was sent to the security manager at Celtic Park who opened the envelope and found four pieces of paper and a joker playing card.

The contents contained racist statements as well as a threat to blow up Celtic Park with a car bomb.

The letter and contents were examined by police and revealed fingerprints and a DNA profile matching Linton.

The same day a school in Motherwell, Lanarkshire, received a further letter threatening to splatter girls' blood all over the playground.

On 6 May, a clerk at an Asda store at Newmains, Lanarkshire, found a note in the mail stating: "I am going to blow up your supermarket". The letter was found to have a fingerprint from Linton.

The following day letters were sent to newspapers in Glasgow which included a threat to put a bullet through Cheryl Cole's head during a concert by the band Girls Aloud at the city's SECC.

A threat was also made to shoot Artur Boruc, the then Celtic goalkeeper, at the home of Rangers Ibrox Stadium.

Linton sent a further letter to St Athanasius church at Carlisle, in Lanarkshire, on 24 June, stating: "One of these days I am going to blow up your church and watch as all the evil followers die. Signed DOS Terrorist."

Sentence reduced

Letter threat 'Satanist' jailed

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The final threat arrived at the mail room at Glasgow Airport the following day and warned: "During the summer the terrorist wing of the DOS will be launching a campaign on your airport. Christianity will be wiped out, Signed DOS."

Linton was later arrested and seen by psychiatrists who decided he was sane and fit to plead.

Lady Smith said she would have jailed him for 33 months for the offences, but would reduce the sentence following his guilty plea.

The judge said the two years imposed on him included two months for the religious prejudice shown in the letter sent to Celtic Park.

Source: BBC