



AG STRANGE ANNOUNCES CALHOUN COUNTY MURDER AND ATTEMPTED MURDER CONVICTIONS UPHELD BY COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

(MONTGOMERY) --Attorney General Luther Strange announced that the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals on Friday upheld the intentional murder and attempted murder convictions of Rapheal Lamar Simmons. Simmons, 25, of Talladega, was convicted in Calhoun County Circuit Court in November of 2013 for the murder of Barry Wright and the attempted murder of Lorenzo Gilmer.

Evidence was presented at trial that around 8:30 p.m. on July 21, 2012, Lorenzo Gilmer, a known drug dealer, and his wife were at Gilmer's aunt's house when he received a telephone call from Cameron White, an acquaintance and business associate, about buying some crack cocaine. At that time of this incident, victim Barry Wright was living with Gilmer. Gilmer called Wright and told him to let White and anyone with him into the house. When Gilmer and his wife returned home, he observed two vehicles parked in the driveway and a man later identified as Rapheal Simmons who was standing outside the residence talking on his cellular telephone. Gilmer took his wife to the back of the house, and then proceeded to the "man cave". White, Simmons, and Terry Thomas were also in the room. Gilmer was carrying \$7,500 in cash. After Gilmer pulled out his money, Simmons pointed a gun at Wright. Wright "charged" at Simmons. Wright and Simmons fought in the hallway for possession of the gun, and Gilmer and White began fighting with each other inside the room. Simmons shot Wright four times. Wright later died from his gunshot wounds.

Simmons re-entered the room and asked "did y'all get everything." As Thomas grabbed the money, White stated to Simmons "you might as well kill him too." Simmons thereafter shot Gilmer in his right side rendering him unable to walk.

The case was prosecuted at trial by Calhoun County District Attorney Brian McVeigh's office. The trial court sentenced Simmons to 62 years imprisonment on each conviction, and Simmons subsequently sought to have his convictions reversed on appeal.

The Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Division handled the case during the appeals process, arguing for the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals to affirm the convictions. The Court did so in a decision issued on Friday, September 26.



Attorney General Strange commended Assistant Attorney General Andy Poole of the Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Division for his successful work in this case.