

NEWS RELEASE

# Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2016

For More Information, contact:

Mike Lewis (334) 353-2199

Joy Patterson (334) 242-7491

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## AG STRANGE PROTESTS PAROLE OF BIRMINGHAM CHURCH BOMBER

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange vehemently protests the potential parole of Birmingham church bomber Thomas Blanton, which is to be considered this morning at a hearing by the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles. Blanton was convicted in 2001 for the 1963 Ku Klux Klan bombing of the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church that killed four young girls who were at Sunday services--Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley--and that injured a fifth girl, Sarah Collins, the sister of Addie Mae Collins. Almost 30 years after the bombing, Blanton was sentenced to life imprisonment.

In a July 29 letter to the Board of Pardons and Paroles, Attorney General Strange stated, "Thomas Blanton was convicted of one of the most heinous crimes in Alabama history – the murder of four young girls who were attending Sunday school. The cold-blooded callousness of his hate crime is not diminished by the passage of time, nor is any punishment sufficient to expunge the evil he unleashed. Because he has never shown any remorse whatsoever for taking the lives of those innocent little girls, justice can only be served if Thomas Blanton spends the rest of his life in prison."

Two other men – Robert Chambliss and Bobby Frank Cherry--also were convicted for the bombing and have since died in prison.

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501 Washington Avenue • Montgomery, AL 36104 • (334) 242-7300  
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**STATE OF ALABAMA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

July 29, 2016

**LUTHER STRANGE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

501 WASHINGTON AVENUE  
P.O. BOX 300152  
MONTGOMERY, AL 36130-0152  
(334) 242-7300  
WWW.AGO.ALABAMA.GOV

Chairman Clifford Walker  
Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles  
301 South Ripley Street  
Montgomery, AL 36130

Re: Thomas Edwin Blanton; 216691

Dear Chairman Walker:

Thomas Blanton was convicted of one of the most heinous crimes in Alabama history – the murder of four young girls who were attending Sunday school. The cold-blooded callousness of his hate crime is not diminished by the passage of time, nor is any punishment sufficient to expunge the evil he unleashed. Because he has never shown any remorse whatsoever for taking the lives of those innocent little girls, justice can only be served if Thomas Blanton spends the rest of his life in prison.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luther Strange". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "g".

Luther Strange  
Attorney General

SRG