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Press Release

Guilty Pleas in Holbrook Murder

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Three men charged in the July 10, 2008 Holbrook home invasion that ended in the murder of Osahon Ighodaro have pled guilty in Norfolk Superior Court to murder in the second degree. The female co-defendant, Nekita Martin, who had agreed with prosecutors to testify in the murder trial this week, is on for a change of plea and sentencing this Wednesday at 2 p.m. The other three will be sentenced at noon on Friday.

Jeffrey P. Anthony, age 24, of Cook Ave in Chelsea, and Joshua E. Berrios, age 24, of Queen Elizabeth Lane in Taunton, pled guilty to murder in the second degree on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012 in Norfolk Superior Court. Kencheser Martin, 29, also of Cook Ave in Chelsea, pled guilty this morning, Dec. 10, 2012 in front of Judge Robert Cosgrove.

"This was planned to be a robbery. Nekita Martin knew Mr. Ighodaro and knew that, through hard work, he had been able to accumulate a number of nice things," District Attorney Morrissey said. "On July 10, 2008, they burst into his apartment and in the process of the robbery assaulted and bound him, and left him. He did not survive."

Mr. Ighodaro was in at his apartment with a female friend on the evening of July 10, 2008. She was in a bedroom when he went to answer a knock at the door. The knock was closely followed by men screaming and the that female being confronted by an intruder who told her to stay in the bedroom and tied her up using a belt.

She eventually lost consciousness and awoke the next morning, was able to free herself, and emerged from the bedroom to find the victim tied up, face down. After unsuccessfully attempting to untie the victim, she fled the apartment and alerted a neighbor who then called 911. Holbrook Police arrived to find Mr. Ighodaro deceased. Massachusetts State Police detectives from the Norfolk District Attorney's Office, as well as the Crime Scene Services Section, arrived to join the investigation.

Money and electronics had been taken from the apartment. CSSS secured finger and hand prints and DNA samples from the scene. On May 6, 2009, Chelsea Police Officers arrested Jeffrey Anthony for an unrelated assault. When his fingerprints were obtained and entered into a national database, those prints were linked to the Holbrook murder. The investigation accelerated, resulting in the co-defendants being identified and arrested.

"It is believed that Kencheser Martin was the primary actor in this event, but because he wore gloves and masked his face while he was in the apartment, his was the case with the least amount of evidence," District Attorney Morrissey said. "We had very positive discussions with the family and the Holbrook Police Department and a decision was made to offer these defendants second degree murder pleas. In doing so, we avoid any possibility that any of them escapes justice for murdering Osahon Ighodaro." The guilty plea also eliminates the possibility of future appeals.

The case was successfully prosecuted by Special Assistant District Attorney Kate Welch, working with Assistant District Attorney Marguerite Grant and Victim/Witness Advocate Lynne Cipullo. Welch was a staff ADA in the Norfolk District Attorney's Office for more than ten years before leaving for private practice in Easton. She agreed, at DA Morrissey's request, to keep the Ighodaro murder case and see it through to its conclusion when she left the office.

"It is appropriate to thank the Holbrook Police and Massachusetts State Police detectives whose thorough work brought this case forward, and Attorneys Kate Welch and Marguerite Grant for seeing it through to this successful conclusion," District Attorney Morrissey said. "The young woman who was in the apartment with Osahon when this occurred showed commendable courage and resolve in assisting the investigation and agreeing to testify at trial had these defendants not admitted their guilt."

"We thank the family for their input, patience and cooperation, and we share in the relief they expressed that justice has been served," Morrissey said.

All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.