



ULSTER COUNTY NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION

244 FAIR STREET
KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12401

PHONE: 845.340-3900

FAX: 845.340.3651

www.co.ulster.ny.us
www.ulstercountyny.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 8, 2007

Contact: **Donald A. Williams**
Ulster County District Attorney
(845) 340-3280

Ulster County District Attorney Donald Williams - Press Release

MURDER CONVICTION AFFIRMED BY APPELLATE DIVISION PEOPLE V. AUDLEY a/k/a "OMAR" EDWARDS

On Friday, August 4th, the Appellate Division, Third Department unanimously affirmed the April, 2005 conviction of Audley, a/k/a "Omar" Edwards, upon his plea of guilty to an indictment charging him with murder in the second degree, burglary in the first degree and robbery in the first degree.

On the morning of October 18, 2004, the lifeless body of Sandros Burgos, a music producer, was discovered inside his Plattekill apartment lying face down in a pool of blood. A subsequent autopsy revealed that the victim had not only been repeatedly bludgeoned about the head, but his wrists had been slit and his throat partially cut.

A subsequent investigation by members of the New York State Police in conjunction with the Ulster County District Attorney's Office revealed that the defendant and his co-defendants, Jose Vasquez and Dominick Galgano, known members of the Crips gang, had decided to burglarize the victim's residence. Within ten minutes of their entry, the victim returned home, leaving Vasquez and the defendant trapped inside. The pair ambushed the victim and began choking him and beating him in the back of the head with an aluminum bat. Even as the victim lay bleeding, the defendant and Vasquez implored him to give up his money.

By their own admissions, faced with the reality that they were going to jail no matter what happened, the defendant and Vasquez continued to beat the victim down and concluded that they had no choice but to kill him. While the victim lay on the ground bleeding profusely from the head, the defendant grabbed a large kitchen knife and began stabbing the victim. Unsuccessful in cutting the victim's throat, the defendant opted to slice his wrists open instead. According to the defendant, the victim was in "some serious shit" and so he opted for the "no pain, just die quick scenario."

--more--

While the victim was in extremis, the defendant and Vasquez stole the defendant's wallet and fled the scene in the victim's truck, which they abandoned.

At the time of the conviction, District Attorney Williams decried the defendant's apparent lack of emotion or remorse for his violent actions and assigned simple theft as the overriding motive for the burglary, robbery and homicide. "This conviction speaks to the defendant's wanton disregard for human life and his willingness to place his own desire for money and drugs above life itself."

This matter was prosecuted through conviction by District Attorney Donald Williams. The People were represented by Joan Gudesblatt Lamb on the appeal. The defendant was represented by Assistant Public Defender Mari Ann Connolly Sennett.