



Office of Genesee County Prosecutor

David Leyton

www.co.genesee.mi.us/prosecutors

PRESS RELEASE

Date: May 22, 2012
Contact: John Potbury, Special Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
office: (810)257-3215

ELIAS ABUELAZAM FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER

One Hour Jury Deliberation Returns Verdict in Arnold Minor Case

FLINT, Michigan – In his closing arguments this morning, Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton asked the jury to find Elias Abuelazam guilty of first degree premeditated murder and when the verdict was read, that's exactly what they had done.

After a three-week trial that involved nearly 50 witnesses, detailed DNA evidence, testimony from numerous other victims, and several expert witnesses who testified as to the defendant's claim of insanity, a Genesee County jury found Abuelazam guilty in the stabbing death of 49-year-old Flint resident Arnold Minor.

Minor was found by Flint police with two stab wounds to his chest and stomach laying on Saginaw Street near 12th Street just south of downtown Flint in the early morning hours of August 2, 2010.

During the trial, DNA evidence was introduced that showed blood samples found on Abuelazam's jeans, shoes, and his vehicle matched that of Minor. Additionally, several witnesses testified during the trial that they too were attacked by Abuelazam during the spring and summer of 2010 in similar fashion to the attack on Minor.

Abuelazam's defense relied primarily on the testimony from one witness who claimed that Abuelazam was insane at the time of Minor's murder. In rebuttal, prosecutors presented three expert witnesses who refuted that claim.

Abuelazam is suspected of a series of knife stabbings in Flint and surrounding communities in 2010 that left a total of five men dead and nine others seriously injured. He is also a suspect in similar stabbings in Virginia and Ohio that left four others wounded.

In total, Prosecutor Leyton has charged him with three murders and six assault with intent to murder charges, one count of malicious destruction of property, and two counts of resisting and obstructing an officer causing injury and three counts of resisting and obstructing an officer. Those cases remain pending on the court's docket.

Abuelazam faces mandatory life in prison without the possibility of parole when he is sentenced on June 25th for the death of Arnold Minor.

###