

3 MEN HELD IN KILLINGS OF 5 IN DETROIT - A LITTLE GIRL LIVED THROUGH ONE ATTACK

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Detroit police have made arrests in two multiple homicides that happened last week, including one in which a 3-year-old girl survived an attack that killed her mother and grandmother.

The five east-side deaths were part of a surge in deadly violence in Detroit with 408 homicides reported so far this year, a 14% increase over last year, when 359 people were slain, officials said.

Two Detroit men were charged Saturday with multiple counts in the killings of three Detroit residents in a home in the 5200 block of Bewick near East Warren the night of Dec. 18.

Killed were Lajuan K. Besant, 33; Raymond S. Anderson, 33, and Kristal J. Leonard, 18.

Neighbors who heard gunshots called police. Besant, who lived in the home, was found by police on the floor of a bedroom. Anderson was found outside near the front door and Leonard on the ground near the front gate.

The arrested men - Jervon Miguel Coleman, 26, and Dashawn Marcel Mills, 17 - were arraigned Saturday in 36th District Court in Detroit on charges of felony murder, first-degree murder and possession of a firearm during a felony.

Chief Magistrate Steve Lockhart ordered the men held without bond in the Wayne County Jail pending a Jan. 2 preliminary examination.

Detroit police spokesman Omar Feliciano said Tuesday that investigators were not releasing the motive for the shootings.

In the other attack, two women were shot to death Thursday in a home in the 18400 block of Dean Avenue near Ryan and East 7 Mile.

Killed were Nelda A. Grant-Johnson, 51, and her daughter, Rachel Krystian Johnson, 21.

Donnell Ramon Johnson, 23, who is not related to Grant-Johnson or Rachel Johnson, was arraigned Saturday on two counts of first-degree murder, using a firearm during a felony, being a felon in possession of a firearm and being a habitual offender. He has convictions for resisting arrest and possession of less than 50 grams of illegal narcotics.

Lockhart ordered Johnson held without bond pending a Jan. 2 preliminary examination.

According to a police report filed in court, Grant-Johnson disapproved of her daughter dating **Donnell Johnson** because of his drinking and abusive behavior.

Last Wednesday, **Donnell Johnson** was at his grandmother's home where he was drunk and disrespectful, according to the police report. Johnson left, saying no one loved him and he was going to commit suicide.

He returned a short time later saying he couldn't do it, the report said.

Then, shortly after midnight, witnesses saw him walking up to the side door of Grant-Johnson's home, pulling a semi-automatic handgun and firing several shots into the door.

Rachel Johnson was killed, but her 3-year-old daughter, Victoria, was not harmed.

Grant-Johnson came home a few minutes later, found her dying daughter and called 911.

While waiting for police, Grant-Johnson called a relative. She was shot to death while making the second phone call, the report said.

Donnell Johnson was arrested Thursday afternoon and later confessed to the crimes, police said.

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