

2 guilty in party store death

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Men to get mandatory life Sept. 25 for killing a clerk and wounding a manager **in** Eastpointe.

By Christina StolarzThe Detroit News

MOUNT CLEMENS — **Two** Detroit men stood silently as a Macomb County juror read a verdict that found them **guilty** of felony murder Friday **in** connection with a September armed robbery of the Original Buscemi's **party store in** Eastpointe that left one man dead and another injured.

Co-defendants Winfred Roger Phillips, 28, and Isaiah Mayweather, 26, will be sentenced Sept. 25 to mandatory life **in** prison without the possibility of parole before Macomb Circuit Judge Donald Miller.

Although Macomb Assistant Prosecutor Steve Fox said he was confident **in** the case's evidence, he acknowledged he was nervous about what the jury would decide.

"It's the only time it's out of my control," Fox said. "I had trust **in** the jury. They came back with the correct verdict."

Defense attorneys could not be reached for comment. Also, family members of the defendants declined to comment.

However, relatives of Mohammed Al-Harbi — the **store** clerk who was shot 11 times while he was sweeping the floor at Buscemi's — silently whispered "yes" when the verdict was read.

"It's a good day," said Safe Alattabi, 19, Al-Harbi's brother- **in** -law. "It won't bring him back, but as long as those animals are off the street, that's all right."

Al-Harbi's 24-year-old wife, Zaman Alattabi, said she wishes Michigan had the **death** penalty.

"They don't deserve to be alive," she said with tears **in** her eyes. "He was just working."

Authorities said Phillips entered Buscemi's on Sept. 27, walked to the back and shot Al-Harbi. They also said Mayweather jumped over the checkout counter to steal cash and then shot the **store** manager, Sinan Hanna, **in** the head. Hanna survived and testified **in** the trial that began last week.

Defense attorneys said the evidence **in** the case — a "blurry" video surveillance video from Buscemi's, and Hanna's testimony — don't prove the defendants are **guilty** .

"Where is their evidence anywhere **in** this case?" Mayweather's defense attorney, Joseph Kosmala, asked before the jury began deliberations Friday. "This identification is very questionable."

However, the jury verdict said otherwise. The jury deliberated for 2 1/2 hours Friday; the trial included 26 prosecution witnesses and 100 pieces of evidence.

Both defendants waived their right to testify at trial.

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