

## **Ex-felon charged in murder - Suspect arraigned for shooting 9 weeks after prison release**

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EASTPOINTE -- An ex-convict was charged Monday with the shooting death of an Eastpointe store owner during a robbery just nine weeks after he got out of prison.

**Gregory M. Bolden**, 30, who had served nine years in prison for armed robbery, was charged in Eastpointe Municipal Court with first-degree murder, armed robbery and using a firearm during a felony in the Dec. 6 slaying of Haitham Bahri.

"This is the most despicable, heinous, disgusting crime I have ever come across," Municipal Judge Norene Redmond told **Bolden** during the arraignment. "You have no respect for human life."

Redmond also called the slaying a crime against Bahri's family and the entire Eastpointe community. Grief stricken members of the Bahri family attended the arraignment, but declined comment after the proceedings.

Police charge that **Bolden**, a Detroit resident, entered Bahri's Pageland Communications store on Eight Mile in Eastpointe on Dec. 6 posing as a customer. Once inside he jumped over the counter and forced Bahri's sister into the store's back room.

When he encountered Bahri, police said, he shot him in the abdomen and then bound his sister, Hala Bahri, with duct tape. He stole an undetermined amount of cash, police charged, but fled leaving a blue baseball jacket in the store.

Eastpointe police reviewed a surveillance camera tape of the crime for evidence, and also found a piece of duct tape that had a fingerprint on it.

The Michigan State Police crime lab analyzed the duct tape and put it through its computerized fingerprint identification system. It matched **Bolden**'s fingerprints, police said.

He was arrested without incident Saturday at a friend's house in Mt. Morris, a Flint suburb, by Eastpointe police, with assistance from Detroit and Mt. Morris officers.

Police also arrested a friend of **Bolden**'s, who is currently being held in the Genesee County Jail awaiting charges on drug and weapons violations. Police found a pair of handguns at the Mt. Morris home, including one they believe was used in the Bahri slaying, a 12-gauge shotgun and drugs.

**Bolden** was released from the state prison system on Oct. 1 after serving a nine years for the 1992 armed robbery of a pizza shop in Warren.

"It doesn't appear that his time in prison did him any good," said Eastpointe Lt. John Calabrese, who added that other departments are investigating to see if **Bolden** was involved in other crimes. "( **Bolden** ) is possibly suspected in other crimes in Metro Detroit in recent weeks."

Redmond ordered **Bolden** held without bond in the Macomb County Jail pending a preliminary examination on the charges on Dec. 30. If convicted he could be sentenced to life in prison.

Caption: **Bolden**

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