

## **HIV RAPIST SENTENCED TO AT LEAST 32 YEARS 'I LIVE IN CONSTANT FEAR,' VICTIM SAYS**

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One after the other, victims of HIV-infected rapist **Dwayne Lamont Peterson** struggled with their emotions Tuesday as they told a judge how they've struggled to cope since the attacks.

"I live in constant fear" of contracting AIDS or another venereal disease, one woman told Recorder's Court Chief Judge Dalton Roberson. "When will I be whole or complete again? When will I stop washing my body? No time soon."

Roberson sentenced **Peterson**, 26, of Detroit to 32-50 years in prison on charges in seven cases that included first-degree criminal sexual conduct, attempted murder, attempted rape, breaking and entering, armed robbery and use of a firearm during a felony.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Robert Donaldson said **Peterson** likely will serve at least 32 years because he was sentenced as an habitual offender. He served an attempted robbery sentence in 1985.

Defense attorney Sequoia DuBose said that because his client has tested positive for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, "anything over 10 years is life."

The case became controversial after Detroit police disclosed that a 25-year-old Detroit woman tested positive for human immunodeficiency virus after being raped by **Peterson**. The woman was a virgin when she was attacked, Donaldson said, citing medical records.

That woman did not appear before the judge Tuesday. But several other victims voiced their confusion, their hurt, their depression and their anger toward **Peterson**.

"You have turned my whole life upside down," one woman said.

Noted another victim: "I hope none of us comes up with HIV. . . there's been a lot of stress for me. . . . I just hope he gets what he deserves."

**Peterson**, who pleaded no contest to the charges, declined to comment before Roberson. **Peterson**'s father attended the hearing but did not comment.

Outside the courtroom, DuBose said he told **Peterson** to remain silent because **Peterson** may face civil action. An attorney for the woman who tested positive for the virus was in the courtroom Tuesday.

DuBose said he is considering suing the Detroit Police Department for disclosing that **Peterson** had HIV, which could violate state law protecting AIDS victims.

Police officials said they wanted to alert potential rape victims and women who had consensual sex with him.

At the time **Peterson** was charged in the rapes, police said they knew of only one or two cases in which Detroit rapists had the AIDS virus. But they had never heard of a serial rapist passing it to victims.

Police and prosecutors said **Peterson** would slice electrical or utility wires, then enter homes to rob them. He often would rape women inside if he thought they were attractive, they said.

**Peterson** was suspected in as many as 100 burglaries in northwest Detroit. Donaldson said his office won't prosecute 10 other cases of breaking and entering, or armed robbery.

"He's just a predator," Donaldson said.

Caption: Photo

: **Dwayne Lamont Peterson** \*\*\*

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