

## **JUDGE GIVES RECO JONES 5 LIFE TERMS: ONE PER LIFE**

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The grandmother who has no more grandchildren. The childless mother. The hardened prosecutor who doesn't usually cry.

They all had their final say Tuesday to **Reco Jones**, the man convicted of one of Detroit's most heinous crimes.

They all addressed Jones before Wayne County Circuit Judge Kym Worthy sentenced Jones to five life terms in prison for slashing and torturing his ex-girlfriend and four children to death last summer.

Jones, who jumped out the fifth-floor window of a police interrogation room the day after he was arrested and then took the stand during his trial and tried to pin the quintuple murder on his girlfriend, said he was sorry.

"I apologize for what happened. I didn't mean to kill them," murmured Jones, who inflicted more than 100 stab and torture wounds on his victims in the bloodbath.

The short, skinny waif of a man professed his love for the woman he killed, 24-year-old Yolanda Bellamy. Prosecutors charged he killed her after she lied in saying she had been pregnant and planned an abortion. The children were sacrificed because they knew him.

"She did so much for me," Jones said.

"The reason I took the stand is because I had so much to say and I wanted to say it my way," Jones said. "I'm sorry for what happened."

Ericka Bellamy, 22, who last summer found the bodies of her two children -- Shafontah Bellamy, 3, and Delvontay Bellamy, 5, nephews Nathan Burns Jr., 5, and Nathan Burns III, 3, and her sister, Yolanda, stared straight at Jones.

"I hate you. I hate the day you were born and I hate the day my sister met you," she said. "Words can't explain how I feel, not now, not ever. But knowing a monster will be locked away until death catches up with you helps me a little."

Linda Bellamy, 41, the grandmother of all the dead children, told the court: "No sentence except for death is good enough for what he did. I only hope for the rest of his life Reco can be locked up like the animal that he is."

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Kevin Simowski, wiping at his eyes, said, "This case has touched a lot of people in ways I've never seen in my 16 years of being here.

Judge Worthy said "There are no words in the English language to explain the horror, the viciousness or the atrociousness of what happened on Rutherford Street."

Nathan Burns, Sr., the father of Yolanda's two children, made his statements to Jones short and sweet. "You took their bodies but you couldn't take their souls. Their souls are with the Lord and now your soul is going someplace different. See you, bro."

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Caption: Photo WILLIAM ARCHIE/Detroit Free Press

Above: **Reco Jones** waits to hear sentence pronounced.

Right: Ericka Bellamy found the bodies. "I hate you," she told Jones from the stand.

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