

JUDGE SETS 4 TERMS TO JAIL RAPIST FOR 60 YEARS

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After listening Friday to emotional statements from two victims of convicted Lafayette Park rapist **Samson Koger**, Detroit Recorder's Judge Leonard Townsend sentenced Koger to four prison terms that will keep him behind bars for at least 60 years.

Before sentencing Koger, 19, who was convicted last month of four rapes, Townsend said of the victims, "No one who lives in society should be put through that."

Then, with Koger standing impassively in front of him, Townsend handed down the sentences: 40-80 years, 50-100 years, 50-100 years and 75-100 years.

Koger will not be eligible for parole until six months after his 79th birthday, said a spokeswoman for the Michigan Department of Corrections. If Townsend had sentenced Koger to life imprisonment, he would have been eligible for parole in 10 years, the spokeswoman said.

Before sentencing Koger, who investigators believe is responsible for at least 25 other sexual assaults and robberies in the near-east-side neighborhood, Townsend heard statements from the two women.

The first, a 40-year-old doctor who was attacked Dec. 12 in the 1000 block of Trevor Place, said that as a result of being sexually assaulted, "a certain part of me died."

The woman, who asked that Koger be castrated, said she now carries a gun at all times, even wrapping it in a plastic bag and taking it with her when she showers.

"I hate this man with a great passion. . . . I would prefer him to be put to death," she said.

The second victim, a 42-year-old woman attacked Nov. 6 in a parking lot of the 2900 block of E. Lafayette, also asked that Koger be castrated.

"I have suffered the loss of the function as a normal human being. . . . I have died in many instances," she said.

Koger declined to speak, but his attorney, Myzell Sowell, said Koger denies committing the crimes and claims confessions he made about the assaults were coerced by investigators.

Sowell said Koger plans to appeal.

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Page: 3A;

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