

## **JURORS RECOMMEND DEATH FOR WUORNOS**

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Friday, January 31, 1992

Author: United Press International and Associated Press

DELAND, Fla. -- A jury unanimously recommended the death penalty Thursday for confessed serial killer **Aileen Wuornos** for killing a man who gave her a ride.

The jury had convicted Wuornos, 35, of killing Richard Mallory, 51, of Clearwater, Fla., in 1989, after the video store owner picked her up while she was hitchhiking and they had sex in his car.

Wuornos, a native of Troy, moved to Florida in the early '70s.

The jury deliberated two hours before recommending the death sentence.

Volusia County Circuit Judge Uriel Blount said he would decide today whether to accept the recommendation. He could overrule a jury's decision in a capital punishment case but never has during his tenure on the bench. He could sentence Wuornos to life in prison with no possibility of parole for 25 years.

One woman and 159 men have been executed since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976. Velma Barfield was put to death Nov. 2, 1984, in North Carolina for poisoning a boyfriend.

Three women are on Florida's Death Row, but no woman has ever been executed there.

Wuornos, her lawyers and defense psychologists have contended that her natural grandfather, Lauri Wuornos, who adopted her at the age of 6 months, was an alcoholic who beat and abused her physically and emotionally, leading to mental impairment.

But on Wednesday, Barry Wuornos, Lauri Wuornos' son, testified that he never saw his father beat or mistreat her and denied that his father was an alcoholic.

"We were a pretty straight and normal family -- very little trouble in the family," said Barry Wuornos, 47, of Troy.

**Aileen Wuornos** has been charged in four other killings in three other Florida counties, but no trial dates have been set.

\*\*\*

Edition: METRO EDITION

Section: NWS

Page: 3A

Index Terms: COURT ; AILEEN WUORNOS; VERDICT

Dateline: DELAND, Fla.

Record Number: 9201040714

Copyright (c) 1992 Detroit Free Press