

## MEDICAL EXAMINER CALLS KILLINGS EXTERMINATIONS

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The **killings** at a St. Aubin Street crack house April 4 were "like mass **extermination** ," Wayne County **Medical Examiner** Bader Cassin testified Friday.

Cassin, the lead-off witness in the first-degree murder trial before Recorder's Court Judge Harvey F. Tennen, testified that five of the six victims were stretched out face-down and then shot in the back of the head. The five, found in upstairs bedrooms, were shot with the gun muzzle less than an inch away, Cassin said.

"It was like mass **extermination** ," Cassin said, likening the scene to news and historical photographs of group **killings** and executions. "The victims were placed in a position that rendered them helpless and then they were shot."

Three of the five had bruises, cuts or scrapes on their faces, meaning they may also have been kicked or beaten before being shot, Cassin said.

According to a survivor, the victims were beaten and kicked by the killers searching for money, drugs and guns in the house.

A sixth victim, found in the basement, was killed in a different manner, Cassin said. That victim, Lavon Robinson, was shot "at the absolute top of the head," with the bullet traveling straight down, he said.

As assistant prosecutor August Hutting knelt in demonstration with his arms held out in supplication, Cassin agreed that Robinson could have been killed while on his knees with the killer standing directly over him.

Tamara Marie Marshall, 18, Mark Lamont Bell, 20 and Jamal Latiff Biggs, 18, are each standing trial on six counts of first-degree murder in the **killings** at the crack house at 17850 St. Aubin near I-75 and East McNichols. A fourth defendant, alleged getaway driver Marc Caison, will be tried later.

Killed in Detroit's worst mass slaying in almost 20 years were Robinson, 18; Steve Owens, 32; Bobby Frazier, 16; Carl Williams, 21; Robert Hill, 15, and Rodney Lewis, 22.

Traces of cocaine were found in the urine of Owens and Lewis, meaning they had last taken the drug within two or three days of their deaths, Cassin said.



Investigators also found a telephone beeper and a packet of cocaine in Robinson's pants pocket, Cassin testified.

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