

GIRL, 8, WAS A CASUALTY OF WAR FOR RESPECT

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Eight-year-old Pamela Graves was a casualty **in** the war for respect on the streets of Detroit.

The child died last July 29 when she was caught **in** the line of semi-automatic weapon fire. According to testimony Wednesday **in** Recorder's Court, the gunfire occurred when Michael (Rabbit) Sims was teaching the Linwood-Grand Avenue neighborhood that neither "Nairobi" nor anybody else messed with his drug runners.

Sims, an escaped convicted murderer and rapist from Tennessee, is **charged** with first-degree **murder in** the child's death. If convicted, he faces a mandatory life sentence without parole.

Joe Esidore, who said he sometimes ran drugs for Sims, testified that the crowded corner was shot up because he had been kidnapped, robbed and shaken down there by Nairobi and two other **men** earlier that day.

ESIDORE TESTIFIED that he was attacked at Linwood and Grand while dealing drugs, because he had walked past a **man** -- identified only by his street name, Nairobi -- without acknowledging him.

"Nairobi was arguing at me about not giving him due respect," Esidore said. ". . . Nairobi was talking about killing me and throwing my body **in** a junkyard."

After being stabbed **in** the left leg and robbed of \$22 and several packets of heroin, Esidore promised his abductors \$200 and more drugs **in** exchange for his life, he testified. Esidore said he told Sims of the incident.

ESIDORE SAID he, Sims and three other **men** armed themselves and went back to Grand and Linwood **in** two cars "to look for Nairobi and them."

At the intersection, Esidore said, "Both cars stopped. Rabbit (armed with a .45-caliber semi-automatic rifle) got out and sort of sat on the window . . . He fired at the top of the buildings. He went around (with the gun) one time and then he dropped it lower when he came back around . . . It took 12 seconds."

Pamela Graves, on her way to buy sloppy joe mix at the market, was hit **in** the head with one of the slugs.

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