

25-YEAR-OLD CHARGED WITH KILLING MOTHERS, CHILDREN

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Tuesday, December 21, 2004
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A 25-year-old Detroit man was arraigned Monday on counts of first-degree murder of his 17-year-old girlfriend, Gloria Pitts, and a woman and two children, whose frozen bodies were found in an SUV in an abandoned lot Sunday.

In addition to Pitts, **Luther Jenkins** is charged with killing 24-year-old Alicia Jackson; her 7-year-old son, Jamon Wilmer, and her 4-year-old daughter, A'Janneya Jackson.

Magistrate Thomas Shannon of 36th District Court ordered **Jenkins** held without bond. A preliminary exam is set for Dec. 28.

Police found Jackson's Jeep at 9:30 a.m. Sunday at Gratiot and Conner. Pitts died of a single gunshot wound to the head; Jackson was shot multiple times, and her two children died of stab wounds, according to a Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office report released Monday.

The four victims were reported missing Saturday after a friend arrived at their house at 1 p.m. on the 4100 block of Dickerson and saw large pools of blood. Pitts' 1-year-old girl, Octavia Pitts, was found unharmed in an upstairs closet.

Police arrested **Jenkins** on Sunday as he worked at a Wendy's restaurant in Southfield. Police said he confessed.

Jenkins is Octavia's father.

Family members were making funeral arrangements Monday.

"We're trying to hold it together," said Charline Samuel, an aunt of the children.

"Alicia was a great person, an absolute sweetheart," said Tonya Anderson, 41, Alicia Jackson's godmother. "She was very devoted to her children. It seems like the innocent and good people have all the bad tragedies."

Family members said Jackson, nicknamed Nikki, had taken in Pitts and her baby several months ago because she was having problems with **Jenkins** .

"Gloria was in an abusive relationship," Anderson said.

Detroit Police 2nd Deputy Chief James Tate said Pitts and **Jenkins** argued before the killings but no clear motive has been established. Family members said Pitts had recently broken up with **Jenkins** .

"No matter what the motive was, there's never any excuse for the unspeakable acts that occurred at the home," Tate said.

If convicted of first-degree murder, **Jenkins** would be in prison for life without parole.

Memorial contributions can be made at any CharterOne Bank under the Jackson-Pitts Memorial Fund Account No. 0303-2047818.

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Caption: Photo

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 1B

Index Terms: A'Janneya Jackson ; Alicia Jackson ; Jamon Wilmer ; Luther Jenkins; homicide ; multiple ; Detroit ; 2004 ; Gloria Pitts

Record Number: 0411825696

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