



Department of Justice

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SECOND FLORIDA MAN CONVICTED OF KILLING ROSWELL BANK TELLER

ATLANTA, GA - A jury in federal district court returned a guilty verdict against TERRON VASSELL VERNON, 24, of Orlando, Florida, on charges of attempting to rob the Bank of America in Roswell on October 24, 2004, and causing the death of teller supervisor Angela Towle, who was a 39-year-old mother of two. The jury returned the verdict shortly before 12 noon on Friday after a week of trial and four hours of deliberations.

“Mrs. Towle’s death was a tragedy for her family and the community. This was a senseless killing and justice was served today when the jury returned its verdict convicting the defendant,” said United States Attorney David Nahmias.

According to Nahmias and the evidence presented in court, two masked robbers ambushed Mrs. Towle at 7:20 a.m. on October 24, 2003, as she was opening the bank. They forced her to take them into the bank, and then shot her several times when she could not open the bank’s vault. Co-workers who arrived twenty minutes later summoned the Roswell police, who found Mrs. Towle’s body after she had apparently tried to crawl under a desk to escape the robbers. She had been shot three times in her

body and once in the back of her head. The robbers did not obtain any money from the bank, but they left with Mrs. Towle's purse.

The FBI began looking for MARCELLUS LEVAN HENDERSON and TERRON VASSELL VERNON the next day, after HENDERSON used one of Mrs. Towle's credit cards to obtain money from Western Union. Both HENDERSON and VERNON were from Orlando, but they had moved to Roswell a month before the robbery attempt. FBI agents and Roswell Police detectives searched their apartment and found, among other things, a .357 revolver that was apparently the murder weapon, two semiautomatic pistols, sets of masks and gloves, Mrs. Towle's purse and the contents of her wallet, including her driver's license and several of her credit cards.

The FBI located HENDERSON and VERNON a week later, registered under fake names in a hotel in Miami. They were arrested on November 2, 2003, after VERNON drove their minivan into a head-on collision with a Miami-Dade police officer's squad car. They were traveling with two females, and their van contained \$18,000 in cash and a loaded pistol. The evidence against VERNON included a notebook found in his cell shortly after his arrest in which he wrote "Lord, forgive me for my sin of taking a life" over 600 times, and including Mrs. Towle's name 41 times. FBI DNA and ballistics experts and a GBI crime scene specialist also testified at the trial.

The two defendants were charged with conspiring to commit a robbery that interfered with interstate commerce, attempting to rob the Bank of America and killing Mrs. Towle, and using firearms in the robbery attempt. The defendants were tried separately. A federal jury convicted HENDERSON of all three charges in February, and

he will be sentenced on June 20, 2006. VERNON will be sentenced at 10:00 a.m. on July 20, 2006. Sentencing will be before United States District Judge Willis B. Hunt. Each man could receive a maximum sentence of life in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 per count.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the FBI and GBI, the Roswell Police Department, and the Miami-Dade Metro Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorneys Yonette Sam-Buchanan and William G. Traynor prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact United States Attorney David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us) through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.