

NEWS RELEASE

# Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## AG ANNOUNCES THAT COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS UPHOLDS ELMORE COUNTY CAPITAL MURDER AND ASSAULT CONVICTIONS

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced that the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals on last Friday upheld the murder and first-degree assault convictions of Stalandus Z. Slaughter. Slaughter, 30, of Eclectic, was convicted in the Elmore County Circuit Court in September of 2014 for the murder of Kenyatta Kendrick and the assault of Darren Kendrick.

Evidence presented at trial showed that at around 3 a.m. on January 4, 2011, two men paid by Slaughter used automatic weapons to shoot several rounds of bullets into the residence of the Kendrick family. Six-year-old Kenyetta Kendrick was struck in the chest and died minutes later. Her uncle, Darren Kendrick, was struck in the left heel and thigh but survived.

The two shooters later surrendered. Under interrogation, they revealed that Slaughter directed them to shoot up the Kendricks' house to kill another resident of the house, Darren's brother and Kenyetta's uncle, Demeco Kendrick. They stated that Slaughter provided them with the ammunition and assault weapon. Evidence also was presented that Slaughter admitted to an individual with whom he was incarcerated at the Elmore County jail that he paid two "guys a thousand dollars to shoot the house up." Slaughter also described the weapon used and the injuries sustained by the victims.

The two shooters pleaded guilty to murder and first-degree assault, and are currently incarcerated.

The Slaughter case was prosecuted at trial by Elmore County District Attorney Randall Houston's office. Slaughter was sentenced as a habitual offender to life in prison without the possibility of parole on the capital murder conviction, and to life imprisonment for the first-degree assault conviction. He subsequently sought to have his convictions reversed on appeal.

The Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Section handled the case during the appeals process, arguing for the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals to affirm the conviction. The Court did so in a decision issued on Friday, March 11.

Attorney General Strange commended Assistant Attorney General Marc Starrett of the Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Section Division for his successful work in this case.

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