



Maricopa County Attorney

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NEWS RELEASE

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Timothy K. Bland Convicted of Double Homicide; Faces Two Life Terms in Prison

Timothy K. Bland (DOB 4/21/85) has been convicted on two counts of premeditated first degree murder for the deaths of Jean Bukuru and Celestine Nzobanimpa.

On July 15, 2008, the defendant got into an argument with Jean Bukuru, the father of the defendant's then-girlfriend. After the argument the defendant obtained a gun, drove to his girlfriend's sister's home where he suspected Jean would likely be, parked the car at a nearby apartment complex, and shot Jean and his twin brother as they got back into their car. Bland was on parole at the time for armed robbery.

The jury did not approve the death penalty in this case and the decision on sentencing now rests with Judge Michael Kemp, who has the option of sentencing Bland to either life or natural life on each count. Sentencing is scheduled for August 20, 2010.

Deputy County Attorney Hilary L. Weinberg prosecuted the case.