

18 YEARS TO LIFE IN ROCKAWAY SLAY

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Body

A Far Rockaway man was sentenced to 18 years to life in prison for murdering an African immigrant working in a store on Dec. 12, 2000.

Rahmel Thompson, 21, was convicted last month in what his attorneys said was a robbery gone bad.

"The victim and his family came here for the American dream and it ended up like an American tragedy," said prosecutor John Kosinski.

The victim, Mamadou Toure, 41, ran a small store on Mott Ave. in Far Rockaway.

His wife and three children had no other source of income and had to return to Guinea, Kosinski said.

Cops said Thompson, who had insisted on his innocence until the last, fired two shots into Toure when the immigrant resisted a robbery attempt.

A jury deliberated for a little more than three hours before convicting Thompson of murder, attempted robbery and criminal possession of a weapon on April 29.

Kew Gardens Supreme Court Justice Laura Blackburne could have sentenced Thompson, the third man convicted in the crime, to 25 years to life in prison for the murder.

One co-defendant, Jameek Roacher, 20, of Brooklyn, was convicted by a jury last year and sentenced to 22 years to life.

A third co-defendant, Maurice Gulley, 19, of Far Rockaway, testified against Thompson. He pleaded guilty earlier this year and is expected to be sentenced next week to 12 years.

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