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Jury recommends death penalty for Sunrise man

A Broward County jury recommended that a Sunrise man be executed for one of three murders he committed, rejecting his testimony that he was driven by the Holy Spirit, a sixth sense and voices. A sentencing date will be scheduled Aug. 28.

BY TONYA ALANEZ

Sun Sentinel

A 24-year-old Sunrise man should die by lethal injection for ordering a woman he'd known for less than a month to her knees, then riddling her with more than 20 bullets from an AR-15 assault rifle, a Broward County jury said Tuesday.

Ralston "Jay" Davis bit his lip upon hearing the jury's 8-4 death recommendation for the killing of Myosha Proby, a 28-year-old mother of two.

She was the first of Davis' three victims on Dec. 2, 2005.

In less than 30 minutes, two strangers Davis encountered at an Exxon gas station near the Swap Shop were also executed at point-blank range.

The jury recommended life in prison without the possibility of parole for the killings of Ravindra Basdeo, 29, and Carlos Jones, 26.

The same jury last week rejected Davis' insanity defense and convicted the Piper High graduate of first-degree murder for each of the three slayings.

In an effort to spare his life, Davis on Monday took the witness stand and said he was driven by the Holy Spirit, a sixth sense and voices.

`GOD TALKING'

Davis said when Proby called him on his cellphone, it dawned on him that she had to be eliminated.

"I believed that was God talking to me," Davis said.

He apologized, yet distanced himself from his murderous actions.

"Physically, in the flesh, it was me. But not mentally, spiritually, that wasn't me at all," he said.
"My heart goes out to the families of the victims. I really truly didn't mean to do what happened, and I wish I could take it all back."

The jury reached its sentencing recommendations after about 4 ½ hours.

'DEEPLY SORRY'

A sentencing date will be scheduled at an Aug. 28 hearing.

Broward Circuit Judge Jeffrey Levenson is not bound by the jury's recommendations, but judges rarely go against a jury's recommendation.

Davis' mother, Marcia, wiped away tears as her cuffed and shackled son was removed from the courtroom.

On her way to an elevator, she said: "I am deeply sorry for what happened to the families, and I pray that God will give them strength to make it through.

"And for my son, God will be with him. He's the true judge."