

Only woman on Florida's death row loses appeal

The Associated Press

Published: Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 1:21 p.m.

Last Modified: Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 1:21 p.m.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The only woman on Florida's death row has lost an appeal to the state Supreme Court.

The justices unanimously affirmed Tiffany Cole's murder conviction and death sentence Thursday.

The 28-year-old woman was convicted in the deaths of a Jacksonville couple, James "Reggie" Sumner and wife Carol, both 61. They were buried alive after being robbed in 2005.

Two men also have been sentenced to death in the case and a third is serving a 45-year prison term.

Cole's lawyer argued her life should be spared because she didn't know the other defendants planned to kill the victims by burying them alive.

The high court agreed she didn't know such a cruel method would be used, but said other factors justified a death sentence.