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Goose Creek Man Sentenced to 20 Years After Jury Convicts Him of Brutally Beating His Wife

Moncks Corner, S.C.-- Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that a Berkeley County jury found Don Antoin Woody, guilty of Domestic Violence of a High and Aggravated Nature following a 3-day trial. Judge Thomas W. McGee, III sentenced Woody to the maximum sentence of 20-years in prison. The jury found him not guilty of kidnapping. The Defendant has prior convictions for Disorderly Conduct, Assault on a Police Officer, Assault and Battery, Driving without a License, Driving Under Suspension and Possession with Intent to Distribute a Schedule I-III Drug. Solicitor Wilson stated, "Judge McGee clearly understood the gravity of this situation."

On the evening of Sunday, June 12, 2022, the Defendant was at home with his wife, the Victim, and her two children, when he brutally beat, choked and stabbed her after a verbal disagreement. The Victim testified that the Defendant first punched her in the face and knocked her to the floor, before grabbing her by her hair and dragging to her bedroom where he pushed her down, punched her, and stabbing her multiple times with a BBQ fork. During the assault, the Defendant told her repeatedly that he was going to kill her. The Defendant eventually wrapped a fan cord around her neck and choked her to unconsciousness, again telling her that this was going to be her last day on Earth. When she regained consciousness, the Victim testified that she told the Defendant that she couldn't see or breathe, but the beating continued.

At some point, the Victim fled the home, but as soon as she made it outside, she was struck in the back and landed face down on the ground. The Defendant then grabbed a metal crowbar and threatened to hit her with it if she made a noise. He then forced her back into the house and into the bedroom where she remained for the next 24 hours. The Victim requested medical attention for her injuries that night, but he refused. He had taken her phone and kept it with him and would only bring it to her to use under his direct supervision. Eventually, the next day, the Victim was able to convince him that she had to go to the hospital because she was in so much pain, and she could not breathe. The Defendant finally agreed to call 911, if the Victim agreed to go along with the story that she fell from a ladder. When the ambulance arrived, the Defendant told Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) the Victim had fallen from a ladder. Fortunately, she was placed in the back of the ambulance alone, where she was finally able to tell them that she had been assaulted by her husband. At the hospital, the Defendant called the Victim repeatedly from the lobby demanding she tell him who was there with her. The Defendant fled after he was approached by a member of the hospital security team, who was a North Charleston Police Officer. He was ultimately apprehended by a North Charleston K-9 officer.

The State presented testimony that the Victim suffered injuries of black eyes, stab wounds to the face and chest, a broken rib, collapsed lung, injuries to her neck and throat, and contusions to her face. A medical expert opined that the injuries suffered by the Victim were life threatening and she was likely moments away from death after the strangulation. Photos of the Victim's injuries and the residence as well as the BBQ Fork used to stab the Victim were also introduced.

Assistant Solicitor Marie Lerch praised the bravery of the Victim stating: "Her testimony was a powerful testament to her courage to endure this brutal assault and then tell her story." Lerch also recognized that the evidence that the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office and the North Charleston Police Department gathered helped piece together the events of the two-day assault, while the EMT's training and experience led to the early recognition that the injuries were not from a fall.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant Solicitor Marie Lerch, of the Ninth Circuit Solicitor's Special Victims Unit, Assistant Solicitor Jon Newlon, and Investigator Spencer Nieto.

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