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Berkeley County Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for Murdering Three

Moncks Corner, S.C.-- Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that a Berkeley County jury found Jay Quan Tyheim Washington guilty of the murders of Malik Gibbs, Desmond Williams, and Martice Green. Washington was also found guilty of the associated possessions of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime charges. The jury returned their verdict Friday afternoon after the week-long trial. The Honorable Dale Van Slambrook sentenced Washington to life imprisonment.

Special Counsel Stephanie Linder and Assistant Solicitors Ashleigh Brown and Michael Secrist prosecuted this case for the Ninth Circuit Solicitor's Office. Solicitor's Investigators Dustin Morris and Tom Rostin assisted with the prosecution. Berkeley County Sheriff's Deputy Chris Gilbreath provided valuable insight into the Defendant's communications and whereabouts throughout the day of the murders.

Investigators suspect the Defendant is a gang member and that was engaged in gang-related activities. Testimony at trial revealed that on January 20, 2020, the Defendant planned the murders and patiently waited for the perfect moment to execute his supposed friends. The Defendant was a passenger in the vehicle driven by one victim, while the other two victims were also passengers. After spending hours together in the vehicle and waiting for the car to be on a remote gravel road in the Pineville area of Berkeley County, the Defendant killed Gibbs, Williams, and Green. He first executed the unsuspecting passengers Green and Williams with single gunshots while they were seated in the moving car. This caused the driver Gibbs to veer off the road into a field and attempt to flee from on foot. The Defendant chased after Gibbs, and finally shot him three times. The Defendant then put Gibbs back in the car with the dead bodies of their friends. The Defendant fled the scene on foot and sent a message of "Doa" to another gang member after the murders.

Special Counsel Stephanie B. Linder lauded the verdict from the jury and hopes it will assist the victims' families and community of Pineville begin to heal after the brazen killings.

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