

News Release

For Immediate Release
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Charleston County Jury Convicts Akeem O'Mar Smith of Attempted Murder, Burglary in the First Degree, Kidnapping and Armed Robbery in Ravenel Home Invasion

Charleston, S.C. – On November 15, 2012 a Charleston County jury found Akeem O'Mar Smith (DOB 11/10/1986) guilty of Attempted Murder, Burglary in the First Degree, Kidnapping and Armed Robbery for a 2010 home invasion in Ravenel.

On October 2, 2010, in Ravenel, SC at about 4:30 in the morning, the female victim, returned home from a “girls’ night out” with family. She was met outside her home by two men clad in black one of whom had a shirt covering his face. The two demanded money.

The victim tried to run to the house but was struck in the head with a pistol and forced inside her home at gunpoint. Once inside, one of the men held her at gunpoint while the other ransacked the home looking for more money. Although the victim gave them her purse and cash from inside the home, the two wanted more. One of the men demanded that the victim “take off her clothes and put a pillowcase on her head,” according to her testimony.

Meanwhile, the woman’s husband returned home from work at a nightclub. The husband encountered a third man “standing lookout” at the front of his house. He engaged the man and the unknown man ran. The husband then noticed a box of diapers in the yard and knew something was wrong. He retrieved a .357 from the glove box of his wife’s car and entered the residence.

One of the men was in the bedroom with the woman and the other was in the living area. The man in the living area opened fire on the husband with a .45 and the husband returned fire. As the pair exchanged gunfire through a wall in the home the husband was shot in the hip.

As the man from the bedroom area fled toward the living area, the woman grabbed her .380 firearm from the home and shot at him. Both assailants fled the home through a bay window at the opposite end of the home leaving blood on the glass. The blood was collected and matched the DNA profile of the defendant, Akeem Smith.

Assistant Solicitor, Timmy Finch, said that the believability of the victims' accounts and the strength of the DNA evidence convinced the jury of Smith's guilt. "The DNA evidence put him there. The victim's story was supported by circumstantial forensic evidence. In crimes like this it takes a lot of bravery for the victims to come forward and participate. Their strength to put their story out there helped our office take a violent criminal off the streets."

Assistant Solicitor Shannon Elliott who prosecuted the case with Finch acknowledged the jury's efforts. "They had a lot of testimony and forensic evidence to sort through and were diligent and serious about their job. This goes to show what happens when the system is working at its best."

The jury returned its verdict two hours after the close of the case Thursday afternoon.

Circuit Judge R. Markley Dennis, Jr. sentenced Smith to Life in prison without the possibility of parole on each of the crimes to run concurrently.

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