



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced to Life in Prison in Murder of 78-year-old Northglenn Man

Joshua Aaron Misegadis was sentenced to life in prison without parole Thursday for killing 78-year-old Joseph Montoya and then setting his body on fire.

“This was an unspeakable crime,” Chief Deputy District Attorney Brian Mason said at the sentencing hearing in Adams County District Court. “The violence and the horror that Mr. Misegadis inflicted on Mr. Montoya, both while killing him and to the body after he was dead, know no words. The pain and suffering his family has endured know no words.”

Northglenn police responded to reports of an apartment fire at 350 W. 114th Ave. on May 12, 2017 and found Montoya’s body engulfed in flames and wrapped in a shower curtain in the bathroom. The Coroner’s Office later determined that Montoya, who was handicapped, had sustained multiple blunt force wounds to his head, neck and back in addition to 16 stab wounds.

Misegadis (DOB 11/22/90) was later arrested after a high speed chase in the cities of Westminster and Northglenn by the Northglenn Police Department. He was found in the victim’s stolen Jeep with clothes containing blood from Montoya. Misegadis, a self-declared heroin and methamphetamine addict, claimed he had entered Montoya’s apartment asking for money and, after Montoya refused, a struggle ensued in which Misegadis stabbed him. Misegadis later admitted to dragging the body to the bathroom and setting it on fire in an attempt to cover up his crimes.

Family members testified at the sentencing hearing, describing Montoya as a beloved father and brother who defied medical odds to walk again after suffering a 13-story fall while working as a mason. Montoya recovered and established his own masonry business. During his career he had worked on a number of Colorado landmarks, including the Eisenhower Tunnel, Denver International Airport and Coors Field, his daughter said.

An Adams County District Court jury convicted Misegadis in June on charges of first-degree felony murder, aggravated robbery, robbery of an at-risk victim, tampering with a deceased body, aggravated motor vehicle theft and vehicular eluding.

Adams County District Judge Thomas Ensor imposed a sentence of life in prison without parole for first-degree felony murder plus 10 years for vehicular eluding. Sentences on the other counts will run concurrently with the life sentence.

“What a horrible way for his life to end,” Ensor said. “He deserved better in his golden years. “This room is full of pain, loss and tragedy on both sides.”

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