



U.S. Department of Justice

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
*United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 28, 2011

For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 252-6933

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Three Defendants Found Guilty in New Year's Eve Attack - Assault Blinded Victim in One Eye -

WASHINGTON - Franklin Robinson, 29, Tashemia Beal, 25, and Arnise Wilson, 20, all of Washington, D.C., have been convicted of charges stemming from a December 31, 2009 attack that left the victim blind in one eye, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

The defendants were convicted March 23, 2011 by a jury in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia of charges of aggravated assault while armed, assault with a dangerous weapon, and felony destruction of property. They are scheduled to be sentenced on May 25, 2011 by the Honorable Robert I. Richter.

According to the trial testimony, the victim and Beal have two daughters from a relationship that ended in 2004. Since then, Beal became involved with Robinson. The relationship between Beal and the victim, meanwhile, grew more hostile. Because of the tense nature of their communications, they had not seen or talked to one another in more than six months.

On December 31, 2009 at approximately 1:30 p.m., the victim dropped off his daughters at Beal's apartment. Beal was outside with her friend, Wilson. She and Wilson argued with the victim, and Wilson threatened to beat him. The victim left without harm.

Four hours later, the victim and his fiancé saw Beal and Robinson in a store parking lot. Beal pulled her car next to theirs, and both Beal and Robinson threatened to beat the victim and his fiancé. Robinson noticed that there was a police officer in the parking lot, and Beal sped away.

At approximately 7:30 p.m., the victim and his fiancé were at home on Astor Place SE, getting ready for New Year's Eve. Beal called their phone and told them they were outside. Wilson was standing by the victim's car holding a metal pole in her hand, and Beal was in the street by her own car.

Concerned that he did not see Robinson anywhere, the victim told his fiancé to call 911 and then he went outside to try to defuse the situation.

As the victim attempted to reason with Wilson, she began cursing and tried to strike him with the pole. The victim grabbed the pole to prevent her from striking him, and it was at that point that Beal yelled, "Frank, he's right here! He's right here!" Within a matter of moments, the victim was struck in the head by a concrete brick by Robinson's brother, David Robinson. The victim was then struck in the legs with the metal pole by Wilson, and he dropped to the ground.

Eyewitnesses observed Franklin Robinson emerge and jump on the victim, who was in a fetal position on the ground trying to protect his head. Robinson was observed kicking, punching, and stomping on the victim's face and body as his brother, David Robinson, punched the victim in the ribs. Eyewitnesses also observed Wilson strike the victim in the face and body with the pole. Thereafter, Wilson smashed out the windows and windshield of his car. Throughout the attack, Beal stood by the group and yelled curses at the victim and his fiancé. All three defendants, along with David Robinson, fled as the police were arriving.

The victim sustained a bone fracture and several lacerations to his face and head. He also sustained a hole in his retina which has left him permanently blind in his right eye.

David Robinson pleaded guilty in October 2010 to a charge of aggravated assault while armed. He is scheduled to be sentenced on April 14, 2011.

In announcing the verdicts, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed his appreciation to the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). He also commended the work of Legal Assistant Nicole Lee, Paralegal Specialist Donhue Griffith, Victim Advocates Meshall Thomas and Christina Principe, members of the Litigation Service Unit, Tommy Miller from the Case Investigation Unit, Assistant U.S. Attorneys Courtney Saleski, who conducted the grand jury investigation, and Lindsay Suttenger, who prosecuted the case at trial.