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Two Brothers Found Guilty of First-Degree Murder and Arson to Destroy Evidence
People v. Jaysean Davenport and Jahquan Davenport, and Antone James:
Kern County Superior Court Case BF191453ABC

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced significant convictions in a case where a woman was murdered in Rosamond, CA. On February 27, 2026, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Leanne Wilder, a Kern County Jury found defendant Jahquan Davenport guilty of first-degree murder of Ronnetta Martin. In addition to first degree murder, he was also found guilty of arson after he set the victim's vehicle on fire to destroy evidence connecting him to the crime. His brother, and co-defendant, Jaysean Davenport, was found not guilty of first degree murder but was convicted of arson of the victim's vehicle for helping his brother cover up the murder. On March 3, 2026, the jury also found several aggravating factors and prior strike offenses to be true for both defendants. The jury acquitted a third co-defendant, Antone James, of first degree murder and arson.

In July of 2022, the victim offered the defendants a place to stay. The defendants lived at Ronnetta's apartment and were also provided with rides by Ronnetta in her vehicle. On August 1, 2022, the victim drove the defendants from Rosamond to Lancaster and dropped them off at various places. Later that day, the victim informed Jahquan Davenport that they were no longer welcome at her apartment and needed to move out. An argument between the victim and Jahquan Davenport broke out in the victim's vehicle while she drove back to her apartment. Jahquan Davenport was seated behind the victim and pulled out a gun. Jahquan Davenport shot Ronnetta Martin in the back of the head and killed her. He then pushed her over into another seat and drove her vehicle out to the Mojave Desert to dispose of her body. While disposing of her body in the desert, he poured juice over the body to attract animals.

After her body was abandoned in the desert, Jahquan Davenport kept the vehicle and went to pick up his brother, Jaysean Davenport in Lancaster. The two defendants then drove Ronnetta's car, covered in her blood from the murder, down to Inglewood, CA. In Inglewood, the defendants abandoned her car on a residential street and set it on fire. The LA County Fire Department ultimately determined that the fire was intentionally set and was arson.

After extensive investigation by the Kern County Sheriff's Office, it was determined that Jahquan Davenport and Jaysean Davenport were one of the last people to be seen with Ronnetta the day she was

murdered. Jahquan and Jaysean Davenport were also seen on surveillance video by the vehicle before and during the arson act. Jaysean Davenport was seen with a bottle of lighter fluid as he fled the scene. Though there was enough evidence suggesting a conspiracy among all defendants to commit the murder, the jury's verdict placed responsibility for the murder solely upon Jahquan Davenport, who fired the shot that killed Ronnetta.

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Jahquan and Jaysean Davenport went to great lengths in an effort to conceal a murder and destroy evidence. This crime crossed county lines and required a complex, multi-jurisdictional investigation. Thanks to the relentless dedication of law enforcement and prosecutors, this verdict delivers accountability and honors the life and memory of Ronnetta Martin."

Sentencing is set on April 1, 2026 in Department 18 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable David Zulfa. Jahquan Davenport faces 50 years to life, plus 11 years in prison. Jaysean Davenport faces 11 years in prison.

Jaysean Davenport:



Jahquan Davenport:

