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NEWS RELEASE

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TWO LIFE SENTENCES IN '94 COLD CASE MURDERS

One of three men accused in a brutal home-invasion robbery and double murder in 1994 has been sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Andre Jackson (dob: 02-10-70) went to trial this past August and was found guilty of two counts of *first-degree murder after deliberation* (F1), two counts of *first-degree felony murder* (F1), *sexual assault* (F2) and *attempted murder* (F2). Today, he was given two consecutive life terms plus 72 years in prison when he appeared for sentencing before Judge William Robbins in Denver District Court.

On June 12, 1994, the Denver Police Department responded to 3234 Larimer Street and found three people who had been attacked and tortured, and one had also been repeatedly sexually assaulted. Two of the victims died, Jacqueline Gallegos and Nelson Swiggett. The lone survivor told police that several intruders had come into his home at about 3 a.m. demanding money and drugs, and then attacked them. The case was unsolved until Denver's Cold Case partners linked DNA evidence that resulted in a Grand Jury indictment in 2012.

Judge Robbins heard from family members how the murder of Ms. Gallegos had impacted her family; her oldest child, a son, was only 6 at the time she was murdered. Both he and a sister said there were no words to adequately share what it was like to grow up without their mother.

Samuel Sims (dob: 03-30-71) is scheduled to go on trial in February 2015 for *first-degree murder* (F1) and one count each of *attempted first-degree murder* (F2) and *sexual assault*.

Jackie McConnell (dob: 09-05-74) pleaded guilty earlier this year to second-degree murder and will be sentenced after the Sims trial.

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The Cold Case DNA Project is an ongoing collaborative effort involving Denver Police detectives, the Denver Police Department Crime Lab and the Denver District Attorney's Office with grant funding through the National Institute of Justice.