

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Hotel Robber and Rapist Sentenced to 34 years

(February 9, 2009, Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Latroy Turner, 24, of Palmetto Avenue in Akron, was sentenced by Judge Paul Gallagher after being found guilty by a jury on December 16, 2008, of various crimes related to robbing four victims and raping one of them in local hotel rooms. As deputies led him out of the courtroom, Turner winked and smiled at the police and the victims.

Prosecutors asked for over 100 years after the victims relayed to the judge how their lives have been dramatically impacted and changed due to Turner's violence. Turner faced a maximum of 340 years in prison, Judge Gallagher ordered him to serve 34.

Prosecutor Walsh said, "Latroy Turner is a monster. I want to emphasize that it is never the victim's fault when they are attacked. We have all been in hotel rooms where we got ice, opened the door thinking it was room service, or left the door ajar waiting on someone to return — and fortunately did not become victims of a sick criminal. This case should give us all pause to think through again that in order to stay safe, we have to be aware of our environment and take extra precautions. I want to utilize this opportunity to remind our citizens of being safe when you travel. Remember a few tips:"

- **Request rooms:**
 - Away from stairwells, ice machines, vending machines, basements, exit doors or refuse rooms;
 - Near (but not next to) the elevator to avoid walking down long corridors;
 - Women traveling alone should request concierge or key serve floors if possible.

- **Stay alert:**
 - Ask hotel staff for a map of the area and familiarize yourself with your surroundings and the hotel;
 - Do not enter your room if someone appears to be watching you or loitering nearby; go to where people are; report concerns to front desk;
 - Do not get on the elevator with someone who looks out of place/suspicious; report them immediately.

- **Staying in a room:**
 - Never use the deadbolt to leave the door propped open;
 - Completely close the room curtains, especially in the evening, or if you will be returning in the evening;
 - Hang the "Do Not Disturb" sign on the outside of the door knob when you exit and leave a light and radio/TV on to discourage burglars;
 - ALWAYS use the peep hole before opening the door to identify the person knocking

Turner was found guilty of three counts of **Aggravated Burglary**, felonies of the first degree, four counts of **Aggravated Robbery**, felonies of the first degree, four counts of **Kidnapping**, felonies of the first degree, four counts of **Robbery**, felonies of the third degree, four counts of having a **Weapon under Disability**, felonies of the third degree, four counts of **Receiving Stolen Property**, felonies of the fifth degree, two counts of **Felonious Assault**, felonies of the second degree, and one count of **Rape**, a felony of the first degree. A gun specification charge was attached to each charge. Judge Gallagher subsequently found him to be a Repeat Violent Offender based upon his past record.

On August 19, 2008, at approximately 7:15 pm, Turner committed aggravated robbery and burglary at a Montrose hotel. The victim, a businessman from Columbus, went to get ice when Turner forced him into his room at gun point. The victim was forced to lie down beside the wall and the bed, undress and give his jewelry, money and any other valuables he had. Turner took his computer, scan disk, cell phone, and GPS and made him drink a pint of alcohol. Turner forced the victim out onto the balcony naked and locked him out there. Turner attempted to burn some of the victim's clothes before fleeing the scene. The front desk called 911 after hotel guests heard the victim yelling for help.

At approximately 8:00 pm on the same day, Turner committed a similar aggravated robbery and burglary at a Fairlawn hotel. A Detroit businessman heard a knock on the door and opened it because he thought it was room service. Turner forced his way in at gunpoint and made the victim take his clothes off and lie on the floor. Turner forcefully took the victim's jewelry, money and electronics. Turner then pointed the gun at the victim's head and clicked the gun several times.

On August 20, 2008, at approximately 9:00 pm, Turner along with his 8-month pregnant girlfriend, Ashley Butler, 22, also of Akron, burglarized and robbed guests at the a hotel in Green. The victim had been waiting for his girlfriend to return from school when Turner and Butler entered the room with a gun drawn. The victim had left the door ajar because he knew his girlfriend would be returning at any moment. The victim was forced to undress and lay on the floor. Butler stood over the victim while Turner went through the room. The victim's girlfriend then knocked on the door and the victim was forced to ask who it was. When the female victim entered the room, she was pulled in by her arm and pushed to the floor. Turner then forced her to undress and lay down on the floor, at which time Butler became uncomfortable and left the hotel room. Turner then proceeded to rape the female victim multiple times while the male victim was lying helpless next to her. All four victims believed that Turner was going to kill them.

On August 21, 2008, Turner and Butler were arrested at Butler's apartment. Turner was found in the bedroom with all of the stolen property. On January 12, Butler pled to Aggravated Robbery, Aggravated Burglary and a Gun Specification and testified against Turner. She was sentenced to seven years in prison on January 15th for her role in the robbery.