

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. John Man Sentenced To 25 Years For 2012 Murder

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ST. THOMAS -- V.I. Superior Court Judge Michael Dunston sentenced Ralph Titre to 25 years in prison [for the 2012 murder of Tiny Jah Jarvis](#), V.I. Department of Justice Public Media Officer Corliss Smithen announced Wednesday.

Judge Dunston handed down his punishment Wednesday on Titre of Hard Labor, St. John, a little more than three months after a 12-member jury convicted the 27-year-old man of nine of the 10 charges he faced in connection with the Aug. 17, 2012, shooting death of Jarvis in Belle Vue, St. John.

At sentencing, prosecutors recommended 60 years for the murder conviction, 15 years for unauthorized possession of a firearm and five years for destruction of evidence to run

consecutively. Judge Dunston, however, sentenced Dunston to 25 years for second-degree murder, 15 years for unauthorized possession of a firearm during the commission of a second-degree murder and five years for destruction of evidence. The three sentences are to run consecutively. Titre is eligible for parole after having served 12 and a half years of his prison term.

In commenting on the case, Attorney General Claude Walker said, "This tragedy was avoidable in so many ways, but now we have a young man who was senselessly murdered in the prime of his life. We were fortunate to have a number of individuals who came forward to testify at trial, and thank them for helping us to achieve justice on behalf of Mr. Jarvis and his family."

On Dec. 1, 2016, a 12-member jury unanimously convicted Titre of four counts of unauthorized possession of a firearm during the commission of or attempted commission of a crime of violence, one count each of seconddegree murder, first-degree assault, third-degree assault, first-degree reckless endangerment, and destruction of evidence, following two days of testimony and after a day and a half of deliberations.

Prosecutors relied on the testimony of several witnesses, including Crystal Turnbull and her sister, Shereka Turnbull, to prove their case. Both of the sisters testified that they were at Belle Vue and they witnessed Titre shoot Jarvis.

The trial was prosecuted by Assistant Attorneys General Eugene James Connor, Jr. and Quincy McRae.