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# Press Release

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## Killer gets death penalty in double-slaying

FORT WORTH — Jurors deliberated about 14 hours over two days before sentencing a Fort Worth man on Friday to death for fatally shooting a convenience store clerk and bread deliveryman during a robbery two years ago.

Kwame Rockwell, 36, was convicted last week of capital murder for shooting store clerk, Daniel Rojas, 22, execution-style in the head on March 23, 2010, even after Rojas cooperated and handed over the cash.

A 70-year-old Mrs. Baird's delivery man, Jerry Burnett, was stocking store shelves at the time and was also shot. He died ten days later from his injuries.

During the trial, prosecutors Kevin Rousseau and Sean Colston presented evidence that Rockwell began plotting to rob the couple who owned the Valero store at 4125 Mansfield Highway after employees at his used car-lot business began cashing large income tax checks at the store.

Rockwell assumed hundreds of thousands of dollars was kept in

the store or at the couple's home.

Rockwell, whose car business was suffering, put several robbery plans into action — including once setting fire to the couple's house to try and smoke them out with bags of money — but none were successful.

Undeterred, on March 23, 2010, Rockwell and four others carried out the armed robbery inside the convenience store, where Rojas and Burnett were shot in cold blood.

After the shooting, Rockwell got rid of his gun and was on his way to Mexico when he was captured in San Antonio.

During the punishment phase of the trial, prosecutors presented evidence that Rockwell had been abusive to his ex-wife and owed \$30,000 in child support.

The jury also heard that Rockwell faked mental illness while in jail, had a shank in his cell, and was planning to try and escape.

To assess the death penalty, the jury had to find that Rockwell



**Kwame Rockwell**

was a continuing threat to society and that there were no mitigating factors that would warrant a life sentence instead.

Three others charged in connection with the robbery and slayings — Randy Siebel, Tyrone Thomas and Tim Thomas — all remain in jail, awaiting capital murder trials. A fourth man, Chance Smith, pleaded guilty to aggravated robbery and was sentenced to 20 years in prison in exchange for his truthful testimony in the case.

***“This was a particularly senseless and cold-blooded crime,” said prosecutor Kevin Rousseau. “I think the decision the jury reached today was the only one that made sense under the law.”***