

**News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney**

June 29, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIRECTOR: Calli Marianetti
Monroe County District Attorney's Office
47 South Fitzhugh Street
Rochester, NY 14614
(585) 753-4532

Ronald Lagasse Convicted of Murder in the 2nd Degree

Rochester, NY- Thursday, June 29, 2023, a Monroe County Jury convicted 54-year-old Ronald Lagasse of Murder in the 2nd Degree for the murder of Mary Simzer.

On September 24, 2022, Rochester Police Officers found 65-year-old Mary Simzer deceased in an alley on Pearce Street with blunt force trauma to her head and neck. She also was found with tree branches shoved down her throat and up her vagina.

Based on video evidence of the victim and the defendant and forensic evidence of the defendant's clothing soaked in the victim's blood, the Rochester Police Investigators identified registered sex offender Ronald Lagasse as the murderer.

The case was prosecuted by Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley and Senior Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler, of the Major Felony Bureau.

"Ronald Lagasse did not only murder Mary Simzer, he defiled her in the most brutal way imaginable," said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. "This defendant is violent, calculated, and a danger to everyone in this community. Ronald Lagasse's disturbing and terrifying actions against this victim are chilling and gut-wrenching. I want to thank the Rochester Police Department for this detailed investigation that was crucial in proving Lagasse's guilt. Mary Simzer was a sister, a mother, a grandmother, and it was truly a privilege to give Mary a voice in the courtroom over the past two weeks."

"Nobody deserves to be subjected to what Mary Simzer experienced during her last moments alive," said Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler. "It is clear that Ronald Lagasse did not hesitate to kill and heinously assault this victim. I am pleased that the jury convicted Ronald Lagasse and I hope that he spends the rest of his life in the New York State Department of Corrections."

Ronald Lagasse will be sentenced on August 16, 2023, in front of Monroe County Court Judge Dollinger.

###