

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

September 27, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ronald Lagasse Sentenced to 25 Years to Life

Rochester, NY- Wednesday, September 27, 2023, Monroe County Court Judge Dollinger sentenced 55-year-old Ronald Lagasse to 25 years to Life in the New York State Department of Corrections. He was convicted by a jury 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 Special Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler, of the Major Felony Bureau.

"The despicable actions of Ronald Lagasse are unlike anything I have ever seen, he did not only murder Mary Simzer, he defiled her beyond comprehension," said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. "This defendant, who was on the sex offender registry at the time of Mary's violent murder is a danger to everyone. I am grateful that Ronald Lagasse received today's life sentence, which is appropriate for his disturbing and gut-wrenching behavior. I want to thank the Rochester Police Department for their thorough investigation that was crucial in proving Lagasse's guilt. It was my privilege to find justice for Mary and her loved ones."

"Ronald Lagasse brutally murdered Mary Simzer without any regard to her life," said Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler. "The proof of his despicable actions was overwhelming. This man's actions one year ago were vile, intentional, and utterly heinous, therefore I am grateful that Judge Dollinger ordered the maximum sentenced allowed by law. Our community is safer with the defendant in the New York State Department of Corrections."

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