

OFFICE OF THE MONROE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The Honorable Brian P. Green, District Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Judge Finds Rajab Banahi Guilty of three counts of Murder in the 1st Degree

Rochester, NY – On Tuesday, June 23, 2026, Monroe County Court Judge Michael Dollinger convicted 43-year-old Rajab Banahi of three counts of Murder in the 1st Degree and Aggravated Criminal Contempt for the murders of Ali Banahi, Mastoora Banahi, and Masuda Banahi.

On January 11, 2023, at approximately 4:45 p.m., Monroe County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a 911 call from Rajab Banahi, who informed dispatchers that he had stabbed members of his family at a residence on Kathy Drive in the Town of Henrietta. Upon arrival, deputies found the defendant's father, Ali Banahi, and the defendant's mother, Mastoora Banahi, deceased inside the home with multiple stab wounds and blunt force trauma. The defendant's sister, Masuda Banahi, was also found suffering from life-threatening stab wounds and blunt force trauma. Masuda Banahi was immediately transported to Strong Memorial Hospital, where she later died from her injuries. Rajab Banahi was taken into custody at the scene.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office conducted an extensive investigation into this violent crime. As a result of that investigation, Rajab Banahi was charged with three counts of Murder in the 1st Degree for the murders of his father, mother, and sister.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Patrick Gallagher, Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau, and Assistant District Attorney Michael Harrigan, Chief of the Major Felony Bureau.

“This case represents a profound betrayal of the very people who should have been safest from harm,” said Assistant District Attorney Patrick Gallagher. “Rajab Banahi murdered his father, mother, and sister in a brutal act of domestic violence that shattered an entire family. After carefully reviewing the evidence, Judge Dollinger found the defendant guilty of taking three innocent lives. While no verdict can restore what was lost, today’s conviction ensures that Rajab Banahi will be held accountable for these horrific murders. Our thoughts remain with the Banahi family as they continue to endure this profound loss.”

“Today’s verdict brings justice to three innocent victims whose lives were stolen in an act of brutality,” said Monroe County District Attorney Brian Green. “The murders of Ali Banahi, Mastoora Banahi, and Masuda Banahi devastated an entire family and shocked our community. I want to commend Assistant District Attorneys Patrick Gallagher and Michael Harrigan for their exceptional work throughout this lengthy and complex prosecution. Their dedication, along with the outstanding investigative efforts of the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office, ensured that the facts were presented clearly and thoroughly. We remain committed to seeking justice for victims of violence and holding offenders fully accountable for their actions.”

Rajab Banahi will be sentenced on July 28, 2026, in front of Monroe County Court Judge Michael Dollinger.

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