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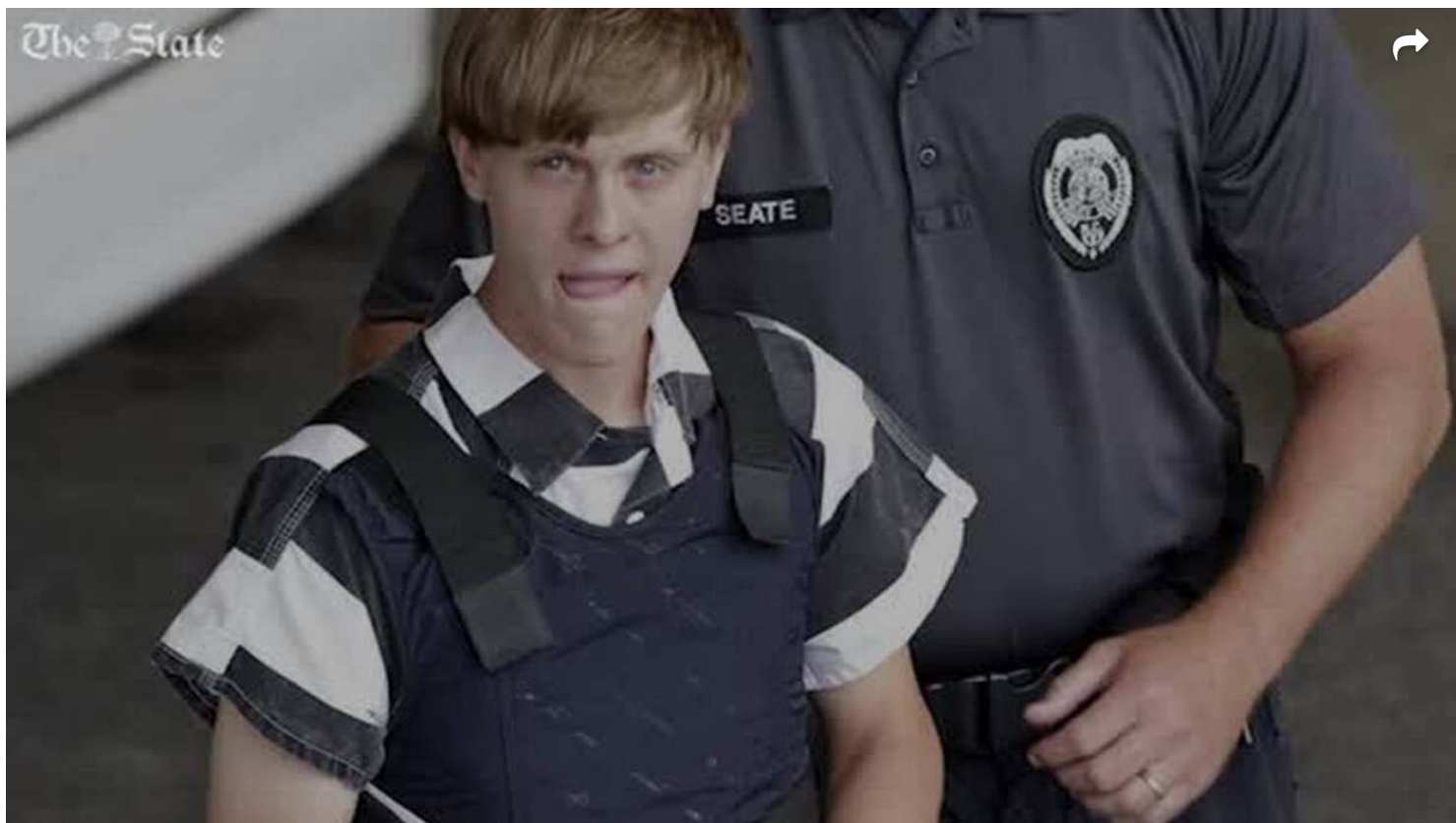
Dylann Roof found guilty

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After nine parishioners were shot to death June, 17, 2015 at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, suspected shooter Dylann Roof was arrested in North Carolina the next day. Eighteen months later, after a six day trial, Roof was found guilty on all 33 BY META VIERS

CHARLESTON

Dylann Roof is guilty of murder and hate crimes, a federal jury decided in the slayings of nine people last year at Emanuel AME Church.

The next question is whether the jury will give Roof the death penalty. Testimony for that phase of the trial is set to begin Jan. 3.

Roof's hatred is "vast," prosecutors told jurors in closing arguments earlier in the day. Roof, 22, of Columbia, was convicted of 33 charges, nine of them involving hate crimes, for the June 2015 shooting deaths of parishioners during a Bible study because of the color of their skin.

"After he killed (the Rev.) Clementa Pinckney, he did not stop. He embraced that hatred, and he executed eight more people," federal prosecutor Nathan Williams told jurors Thursday morning.

“When you see those lists of churches, that tells you the depth, the vastness of his hatred,” he said of Roof’s list of potential targets, some in Columbia.



Authorities released a video Friday showing Dylann Roof confessing to the shooting death of nine people at a Charleston church last year. This is the first time since testimony in the death penalty trial, the jury got to hear his voice. The video BY MCCLATCHY

Roof, too, is charged with discharging a gun while committing a crime. And he is charged with obstruction of the exercise of religion, because he killed “people as they were praying,” Williams said.

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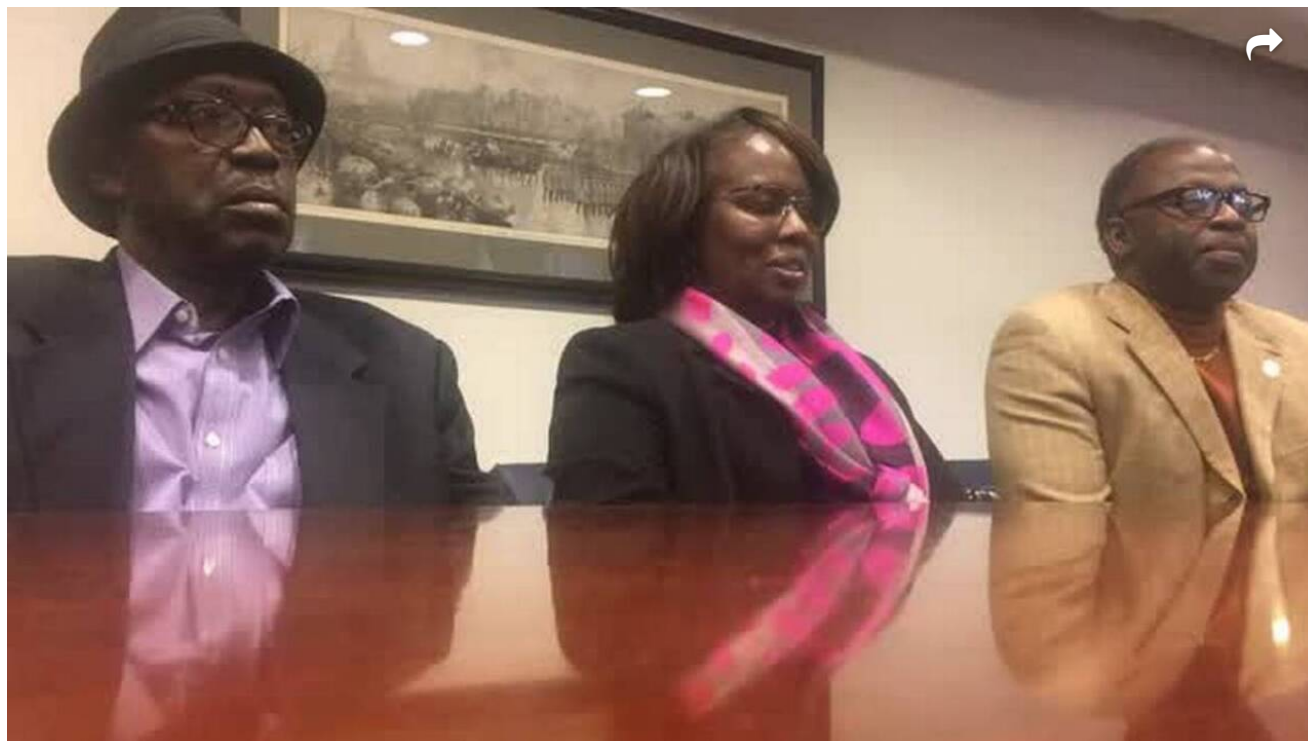
The killings shook South Carolina and the nation because they happened in a church, because Roof’s white supremacist motivations were so blatant and because survivors were so quick to express forgiveness.



Exhibit GX 299 in the federal trial of Dylann Roof. The video made public in December shows Roof recording himself during target practice before the June 2015 shootings in Charleston. BY MCCLATCHY

“These nine people exemplified a goodness that was greater than this message of hate,” Williams told jurors, urging them to find Roof guilty.

Jurors began deliberating shortly after 1 p.m. and asked at about 3 p.m. to rehear a portion of Roof’s taped FBI confession, from when when the FBI asked if he remembered how many people were killed. They came back minutes later with guilty verdicts on all 33 counts.



Dylann Roof did not shoot Felicia Sanders, telling her the night of the massacre to tell the world about what he had done. Roof was found guilty of murder and hate crimes in federal court on Thursday.

BY MCCLATCHY

Immediately after that, U.S. Judge Richard Gergel swore Roof in and asked him one more time if he wanted to represent himself during the penalty phase. Roof said “yes.” Gergel told him again that he thought that was a bad idea and that Roof had until Jan. 3 to change his mind.



After his conviction for murder and hate crimes, Dylann Roof is transported away from the Federal Courthouse in Charleston on Thursday, December 15, 2016. This is one of the vehicles in the group.

BY MCCLATCHY

Gov. Nikki Haley reacted quickly. “It is my hope that the survivors, the families, and the people of South Carolina can find some peace in the fact that justice has been served,” she said in a statement.

Roof’s defense attorney, David Bruck, put up no witnesses Wednesday and has admitted Roof’s guilt to jurors. But he has been trying to make Roof seem confused or delusional rather than rational.

During his closing arguments, Bruck said Roof acted alone, without encouragement from a best friend or family members. Roof’s motivation came from things he saw on the Internet. And that he originally planned to kill himself after killing others showed he thought he was in a war that required those sacrifices, Bruck said.

Don’t give Roof too much credit, Bruck told jurors. “Everything he is doing is just an imitation from something he has learned from somewhere else.”

Bruck said “Roof never gave an explanation for his actions except ‘he had to do it.’ But never gave an answer to ‘why.’”

Another prosecutor, Stephen Curran, rebutted Bruck's arguments, saying Roof explained many times why he did it: He hated. And Roof was not delusional, Curran said, as proved by his two-hour-long confession.

"Don't be distracted by the defense ... suggesting that there's some deeper meaning. He told you why," Curran said.

As he has throughout the trial, Roof sat motionless during closing arguments and as Gergel gave instructions to the jury on the charges.

He said in his confession that while the Internet made him see that white people were victims, a black person had never done anything to him or his family personally.

As the 12 jurors were separated from the six alternates, the public got to see for the first time who the 12 were. All 18 had been sitting together in the jury box, and the alternates were never identified.

The jury is comprised of eight white women, two black women, one black male and one white male. The alternates did not deliberate with the jury.

Thursday was the last time the jury will hear from Bruck. Roof plans to represent himself during the penalty phase of the trial. Roof's attorneys had said for months that Roof would plead guilty if the death penalty were off the table, but prosecutors would not agree to that.

THE EVIDENCE AGAINST DYLANN ROOF

The lead FBI agent investigating the slayings of nine people at a South Carolina church says authorities conducted more than 200 interviews in the case.

FBI Special Agent Joseph Hamski testified Tuesday that about 50 agents worked on the government's case against Dylann Roof, collecting and examining more than 500 pieces of evidence. Here are some key pieces.

A HANDWRITTEN LIST OF LOCATIONS ROOF CONSIDERED BEFORE CHOOSING TO ATTACK PARISHIONERS AT EMANUEL AME CHURCH IN CHARLESTON.