NewsBank inc.

9 inmates indicted on murder charges - Slaying - Times-Picayune, The (New Orleans, LA) - September 28, 2001 - page 01
September 28, 2001 | Times-Picayune, The (New Orleans, LA) | Gwen Filosa Staff writer | Page 01

Nine inmates at **Orleans Parish Prison** were charged with murder Thursday in the June 13 beating **death** of another inmate.

The grand jury returned indictments of second-degree murder against Michael Butler, 20, Clarence Daniels, 20, Robert Dedmond, 20, Christopher Garner, 20, Trahan Gray, 20, Lee Jackson, 21, Stanley Lewis, Nicholas Pierre, 20, and Renard Price, 20.

Garner, Jackson and Pierre have no known addresses; the rest are from New Orleans.

On June 13 about 10:45 p.m. , a band of inmates attacked Joseph Quinn with fists and feet after an argument. Prison officials said the fight began over food and Quinn's tennis shoes, after Game 4 of the NBA finals ended on television.

"There was some bickering and also an issue of territory," said First Assistant District Attorney Tim McElroy. "Some inmates were not where they were supposed to be."

Quinn, 21, died early the next morning at Charity Hospital, having suffered blunt head trauma and spinal cord injuries.

The men, originally in jail on charges that varied from marijuana possession to carjacking, remain at the parish prison and not all have lawyers. They have not had an opportunity to enter a plea, but prosecutors said several have claimed self-defense. If convicted as charged, each faces a mandatory life sentence.

In recent memory, no murder case in Orleans Parish has had so many defendants.

"It is highly unusual, but this was a brawl," McElroy said. "There were a lot of people in a small area."

By going after all nine, prosecutors must prove they acted together in murdering Quinn. As in other cases with multiple defendants, it is likely some inmates will try to separate themselves from the others to avoid a murder charge, McElroy said.

"In the future, some more light may be shed by some defendants," he said, adding that he expects no additional suspects to be charged.

Quinn had been in jail awaiting trial on a charge of possessing a hypodermic needle with traces of heroin. His survivors include his wife, Tamika, and two children.

. . . . . .

Gwen Filosa can be reached at gfilosa@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3304.

Copyright, 2001, The Times-Picayune Publishing Corporation. All Rights Reserved. Used by NewsBank with Permission.