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Teens get life sentences in brutal home invasion

Assaulted grandmother had testified in Gwinnett case

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A Gwinnett County judge sentenced two teens to each serve back-to-back life sentences for home invasion robbery.

Gwinnett Chief Superior Court Judge Dawson Jackson said youth was not a shield for Darius Deon Emory, 18, and Tavarus Sanders, 16, in the terrorizing crime April 12 against a two Lawrenceville grandparents.

Both were convicted last month of forcing their way into Violet and Ulysses Towe's home, robbing them and stealing their sports utility vehicle at gun and knife-point.

The judge also ordered Emory to serve a 20-year-sentence after the life sentences for a sex crime against the 59-year-old woman. The Tows have chosen to publicly discuss their ordeal and their struggle to get past it.

"It's a good sentence," Violet Towe said with a smile as she left the courtroom.

The judge said he was most disturbed by testimony that the teens had threatened to kill the couple and appeared to be headed back to the victims' home after the crime when police stepped in.

Both have juvenile records and Sanders has a pending case before the same judge in connection with the armed robbery of a jewelry store, according to testimony.

Neither teen showed remorse. When the judge announced his sentence, Emory looked toward Violet Towe, put his fingers to his head and made a gesture like he was pulling the trigger of a gun.



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Tavarus Sanders (left) and Darius Emory were convicted of several charges.

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