

# Two JBM members get life for slaying

A West Phila. store owner was shot 12 times. Lawyers said the two acted under duress.

By Linda Loyd

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Sam Brown, a Junior Black Mafia lieutenant, and an associate, James Anderson, were sentenced to life in prison yesterday for the execution-style slaying of a West Philadelphia food store owner.

Defense attorneys asked the jury to spare their clients, and argued that Brown, 29, and Anderson, 21, acted under "extreme duress" on orders of their JBM boss, Aaron Jones, who commanded the slaying of Bruce Kennedy in Mommie's Food Market in West Philadelphia.

Jones, 30, a founder of the JBM, was sentenced to death on Friday by the jury, after all three men were convicted of first-degree murder. Jones was convicted last year in federal court of racketeering and conspiracy to distribute \$100 million worth of cocaine in Philadelphia, and received a mandatory life term.

Defense attorneys Daniel M. Preninger and Norris E. Gelman blamed Jones as the mastermind who ordered the slaying of Kennedy, then forced Brown and Anderson to carry it out.

"Aaron Jones got where he was because people were scared to death of him," said Gelman. "When Aaron

said 'do it,' you had to do it. If you didn't follow Aaron's orders you'd be dead. Extreme duress is a mitigating circumstance, and can tip the scales between life [in prison] and death," Gelman said.

Kennedy, 26, was cooking a steak sandwich in back of the store when two gunmen, Anderson and Christopher Anderson, no relation to James, burst into the food market, pulled out guns and began shooting. Kennedy was struck 12 times by gunfire.

Assistant District Attorney Joel Rosen presented evidence during the trial that Jones ordered the assassination, then planned it with Brown the night before, on Aug. 17. They decided to use James Anderson and Christopher Anderson to carry out the killing.

Christopher Anderson has pleaded guilty to third-degree murder and has been sentenced to 32½ to 65 years.

Rosen told the jury yesterday that Brown and James Anderson were not acting under duress or fear of anyone.

"James Anderson stood over Kennedy and fired into him, three times in the head and all over his body. It showed quite the opposite of duress," Rosen said.

"The JBM was dead after the federal court convictions last year," Rosen said. "This case keeps Anderson and Brown — who would have gotten out of prison sometime — off the street forever. All the JBM leaders are now in jail."