



KEVON "MUSCLES" PHILLIP
Beaten to death in jail cell

Witness 'stranger to the truth'

SAM PAZZANO
Courts Bureau

A defence lawyer attacked the credibility of a key Crown witness who implicated five inmates accused in the Don Jail beating death of Kevon "Muscles" Phillip.

In his closing argument, defence lawyer Joseph Neuberger said one key prosecution witness came forward after God spoke to him "to tell the truth" about what transpired in the savage slaying of Phillip.

But Neuberger said that witness shouldn't be trusted since he "is an opportunist and a stranger to the truth."

The prosecution alleges Abdi "Crispy" Mohamed, 23, Chris "Sandman" Fearon, 29, Hussein "Dice" Nur, 24, and Nathaniel "Jeezy" Grant, 28, committed second-degree murder in the Jan. 2, 2010, slaying of Phillip, 24.

He was grabbed and then dragged into Cell 18, where he was beaten unconscious and later died choking on his vomit.

Neuberger's client, Said "Mo" Mohamed, 25, is the only inmate charged with manslaughter.

All have pleaded not guilty to their respective charges.

Neuberger argued the Crown hasn't proven his client is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The key Crown witness, whose identity is covered by a publication ban, shouldn't be believed due to weaknesses in his testimony, Neuberger argued.

"His evidence about my client's participation is like a bad cliffhanger in the movies," he told the jury.

The trial resumes Thursday.

sam.pazzano@sunmedia.ca