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Greed motive for murder

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ICELANDIC national Gisli Thorkelsson was murdered out of greed by a friend, and his body was cemented in a dumpster, the Johannesburg High Court ruled yesterday in convicting barman Willie Theron of murder.

In a 106-page judgment, Judge Kathy Satchwell found three co-accused – Andre Koekemoer and Hendrik Breedt, both of Boksburg, and Theron's estranged wife Linda – not guilty of involvement in the murder.

They were, however, convicted on various other charges.

The court accepted evidence by Desiree Oberholzer, who drove the car in which Thorkelsson was shot, stood trial separately and is serving 20 years' imprisonment for involvement in the murder.

Oberholzer had not exaggerated, said Satchwell, accepting her version that Theron shot Thorkelsson on the way back from the airport.

Thorkelsson, who had had

snip

Besides the murder, two counts of contravening the Firearms Act, van theft and preparing false documents, Theron was also convicted on numerous counts of fraudulent withdrawals.

permanent South African residence, had been to visit his sister Thorkatla Donnelly in the US.

The court rejected as "unrealistic" and "neither plausible or believable" Theron's claims that Oberholzer and her now deceased boyfriend Kevin Haig had committed the crime.

The court took into account that Oberholzer had received nothing, although they had promised her R100 000 to visit her children in England.

A total of R79 000 was obtained in Internet transfers from the R300 000 in Thorkelsson's bank account, of which about R60 000

had gone to the Theron family.

The body was discovered about eight weeks after Thorkelsson's return to South Africa. It was found cemented in the dumpster by Hendrik Breedt.

Theron had lodged there and left the dumpster behind, telling Breedt it was a cement experiment. The lid had been screwed down but, when opened, the feet had been clearly visible.

After Theron's arrest police found in his flat documents belonging to Thorkelsson, including his passport.

This, said the judge, showed Theron had had contact with Thorkelsson after his return, as he had obviously used the passport on his overseas trip.

False documents were drawn up, claiming to the bank that Thorkelsson was ill overseas, and that Theron had been given power of attorney.

Theron and his wife had been attempting a reconciliation. The court convicted her on three counts of fraud.



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