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### Killer of Broward sheriff's deputy Todd Fatta sentenced to life in prison

By Paula McMahon

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Before Kenneth Wilk was sentenced to life in prison without parole on Wednesday, he delivered a 10-minute speech, apologizing for killing Broward Sheriff's Deputy Todd Fatta but arguing he was not guilty of murder.

"Your honor, I am an innocent man, I have been wrongly convicted," Wilk said.

In June, a federal jury voted 12-0 that Wilk should be sentenced to life in prison, not executed, for the Aug. 19, 2004, murder of Fatta. Wilk was convicted of first-degree murder, attempted second-degree murder for the shooting of Lt. Angelo Cedeño, obstruction of justice and possession of child pornography.

Wilk, 45, admitted he fatally shot Fatta and injured Cedeño while deputies and federal agents were serving a child pornography warrant at Wilk's Fort Lauderdale home. He testified that he thought the deputies were intruders and shot them in self-defense.

Prosecutor John Kastrenakes said Wilk embarked on a "premeditated plan to kill police officers" and avenge the arrest of his romantic partner Kelly Ray Jones. Jones is in prison for possession of child pornography and trying to have sex with a child.

Fatta's sister, Linda Kirtley, of West Palm Beach, the only member of the victim's family at the sentencing, said she was relieved the trial was over.

The Fatta family has filed a civil suit against the Sheriff's Office alleging that the raid was botched and Fatta was placed in unnecessary danger.

"The family is very pleased that this gentleman will spend the rest of his life in prison," said Andrew Yaffa, the Fattas' civil attorney. "They look forward to finding out the whole truth about what happened that day. We know Todd is dead and he didn't have to die."

U.S. District Judge James Cohn imposed a \$25,000 fine on Wilk and ordered him to pay \$300,000 to help reimburse the cost of his defense.



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Since his arrest, Wilk has received more than \$120,000, tax-free, from a private disability insurance policy, according to public records.

Wilk's part ownership of his Imperial Point home is also being forfeited to the U.S. government to help offset the cost of his prosecution.

Deputies shook their heads when Wilk told Cohn he wanted the forfeiture money to go to a reward fund to help find the person who shot Sheriff's Sgt. Chris Reyka on Aug. 10 in Pompano Beach.

Wilk said he wanted the money, estimated at about \$140,000, to help find what he called a "legitimate cop killer."

The Sheriff's Office rejected Wilk's offer.

"It's despicable to think that we would accept blood money from the killer of one of our deputies to help find the killer of another of our deputies," said Elliot Cohen, a Sheriff's Office spokesman

Wilk's attorneys, Bill Matthewman and Rafael Rodriguez, said they plan to appeal Wilk's conviction and sentence.

Paula McMahon can be reached at [pmcmahon@sun-sentinel.com](mailto:pmcmahon@sun-sentinel.com) or 954-356-4533.

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