

Tompkins County
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"Inclusion Through Diversity"

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PRESS RELEASE / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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District Attorney Matthew Van Houten announced today that Ahmed Abed, 44, of Ithaca, was sentenced this afternoon in Tompkins County Court in connection with his conviction of Murder in the Second Degree.

County Court Judge Scott A. Miller sentenced Abed to twenty-five (25) years to life in New York State Prison. The prosecution outlined the details of the brutal crime and asked the Court to impose the maximum sentence, 25 years to life.

District Attorney Van Houten prosecuted the case. Ithaca attorneys Michael Perehinec and Zela Brotherton represented the defendant.

On June 10, 2025, Abed admitted to intentionally killing his wife, Alaa Hussein Jeena Abedi, 43, on the morning of November 11, 2024, in their residence in the City of Ithaca. The couple's four children were at home when the defendant committed the murder. There was no plea offer, and the prosecution stated from the outset that they would be seeking the maximum sentence.

Three of the four children spoke at the sentencing hearing. Each of the children spoke bravely and powerfully, asking the Court to impose the maximum sentence. District Attorney Van Houten stated "Under the circumstances of this brutal and heinous murder, I strongly believe that the maximum sentence of 25 to life was the appropriate sentence and I am disappointed that the law does not allow me to ask for a greater sentence. Abed's cruel and senseless act of violence took away both parents from the children and caused them immeasurable pain that no court proceeding can ever come close to addressing."

The District Attorney's Office recognizes and thanks the agencies who conducted the investigation and assisted in the prosecution of this case, specifically the exemplary work of the Ithaca Police Department and the New York State Police Forensic Investigation Unit.
