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## New York

### Jerome Isaac held without bail in Brooklyn elevator torching of Deloris Gillespie ; prosecutor says evidence is 'beyond question'

**Gillespie's children want Jerome Isaac to get the max**

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Jesse Ward/Jesse A. Ward for News

Jerome Isaac, 47, at his arraignment hearing in Brooklyn Criminal Court on Monday with lawyer Howard Tanner. He was held without bail in the murder of Deloris Gillespie, 64.

The sicko charged with torching a Brooklyn woman was ordered held without bail on Monday — as the victim's family said they don't want prosecutors to cut any deals.

Sporting a white jumpsuit and a nasty burn on his left cheek, [Jerome Isaac](#), 47, didn't say a word as a prosecutor spoke of the horror of [Deloris Gillespie's](#) death.

"I know this is the defendant's first offense, but the depravity of this one single act is beyond my description," [Assistant District Attorney Kenneth Taub](#) said in Brooklyn Criminal Court.

"The evidence of this particularly heinous and brutal murder is beyond question."

Isaac, a handyman who did some work for Gillespie, was caught on video spraying her with gasoline in an elevator, setting her ablaze and tossing in a firebomb on Saturday.

He was reeking of gas when he surrendered to cops, admitted setting a fire, and complained that Gillespie, 64, owed him money for maintenance work on her Underhill Ave. apartment.

Isaac's lawyer, [Howard Tanner](#), did not make an application for bail or request a psychiatric evaluation.

He asked that his client be held in protective custody.

[Councilwoman Letitia James \(D-Brooklyn\)](#), who attended the arraignment, said she gave prosecutors a message from Gillespie's children: No plea bargains.

They want Isaac to serve the absolute maximum for killing their mom, who perished from head-to-toe burns and smoke inhalation.

"This was a horrific, brutal and senseless crime," James said. "And they loved their mother dearly."

She said several of the children were headed to New York and hoped to find copies of letters their mother had written complaining Isaac was harassing her.

The councilwoman said Gillespie — who cut off Isaac for stealing from her Prospect Heights apartment — never got an order of protection against him because she didn't know his full name.

James said she knew Gillespie from community work.

"She was an angel," she said.

She said the family is struggling to raise money for a funeral after Christmas. Donations can be sent to the Victims Rehabilitation Fund at Carver Federal Savings Bank, 4 Hanson Place, Brooklyn, N.Y., 11217

**Read more:** <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/jerome-isaac-held-bail-brooklyn-elevator-torching-delores-gillespie-prosecutor-evidence-question-article-1.993866#ixzz1hgmXwotX>