

# Man convicted of Skyline Boulevard ambush killings after case delayed by competency question

Malik Dosouqi was initially sent to a state hospital after being deemed unfit for trial, then was reclassified last year

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By [Robert Salonga](#) |

[rsalonga@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:rsalonga@bayareanewsgroup.com) | Bay Area News Group

PUBLISHED: March 17, 2022 at 1:11 p.m. |

UPDATED: March 18, 2022 at 4:01 a.m.

REDWOOD CITY — Malik Dosouqi has been convicted of the [2019 ambush murders](#) of a cab driver and tow truck driver who authorities say he lured with calls for help, only to fatally stab them, capping a court case that was shelved for over a year after

Dosouqi was [initially deemed mentally unfit](#) to stand trial.

Malik Dosouqi has been convicted of murdering two people in what authorities described as ambush attacks on Skyline Boulevard near Woodside in June 2019. (San Mateo Co. Sheriff's Office) San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

On Thursday, Judge Lisa Novak issued her verdict after a seven-day trial, convicting Dosouqi of two counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of Abdulmalek Nagi Nasher, 32, and 31-year-old [John Sione Pekipaki](#) on June 17 and 18 in 2019, on a thinly traveled stretch of Skyline Boulevard that runs through Woodside.

Each murder count carried sentencing enhancements for lying in wait, committing multiple murders, using a deadly weapon, and inflicting great-bodily injury that make it likely he will serve a lifetime prison term after his scheduled sentencing on April 15.

The deaths marked what Chief Deputy District Attorney Sean Gallagher called “some of the most violent scariest murders we’ve had in this county in some time.”

“(The verdict) is a relief to us, and no doubt to the families of the victims,” Gallagher said. “It gives solace to the families and what has been a really bewildering process for them.”

Nasher's sister said her family was not ready to comment on the verdict until closer to the sentencing date. Attempts by this news organization to reach Pecipaki's relatives were not successful Thursday. Paul DeMeester — Dosouqi's attorney appointed through the county's Private Defender Program — said the defense "made tremendous progress" in lobbying the district attorney's office to drop its pursuit of capital punishment, but acknowledged that "the guilt phase of the trial was always going to be a tough road for us." He objected last year to his client being deemed fit for trial.

According to authorities, on June 17, 2019, a then-26-year-old Dosouqi called for a taxi ride and Nasher responded, and the encounter ended with Nasher's body being found in a dirt turnout just off Skyline Boulevard near the Skeggs Point vista in the El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve. The first indication that something might be amiss was when Nasher never returned after being called to drive someone, presumably Dosouqi, from El Granada to Santa Cruz. The next evening, Pecipaki was dispatched to the same winding stretch of road after his company, Specialty Towing, got a call from someone identifying themselves as "Sean," who reported a broken down car and requested a tow to San Bruno. At the time, no one was aware that the call was to the same site as Nasher's stabbing.

Authorities say Dosouqi, a Pacifica resident, stabbed Pekiaki not long after he arrived. When San Mateo County Sheriff's deputies returned to the scene to investigate the first killing, and encountered the wounded Pekiaki calling for help, Dosouqi drove at the deputies. They opened fire at Dosouqi, who was not hit by any bullets but soon crashed into a ditch, and was then arrested.

"It was on Skyline in the dark of night, pitch black, with no one around, and he lured two innocents to a dark isolated forest, and just literally slaughtered them," Gallagher said of Dosouqi. "This defendant was on a rampage that wouldn't have stopped if not for the great work of the sheriff's office."

During an early string of court hearings in the case, questions about Dosouqi's mental competence arose after he was seen laughing through proceedings and [talked about representing himself](#), prompting a judge to order an examination.

Five months after the killings, the court, relying on [doctors' findings outlining an in-depth history of mental illness](#), declared Dosouqi incompetent to stand trial. He was sent to a state hospital and case was dormant pending a change in his condition.