

## Tears and Fears: The Suspects' Hope is Finished

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From Ansa 29.10.2008 (*translation by Passerotta*)

She cries, he asks, frightened, when he can go home. Amanda Knox and Raffaele Sollecito, after waiting eleven hours in a room with iron bars in the basement of the courthouse of Perugia, on hearing the words of Judge Paolo Michel, saw the hopes they'd cultivated all day come crashing down. They had been saying, "Tonight we leave." But today's decision signifies, for them, a point of no return: They must face the court for the crimes of aggravated homicide and sexual violence, as well as theft, against Meredith Kercher, killed in the house at via della Pergola a year ago. They risk a life sentence and their only feeble hope is to leave prison, but that's now tied to the decision the judge has delayed: whether or not to grant them house arrest.

Rudy Guede, whose defense team opted for the shortened trial, was condemned to 30 years in prison for the murder and sexual violence against Meredith. He was petrified by the reading of the sentence: perhaps he doesn't understand everything, but surely he realizes that the situation is difficult for him, "We'll explain it to you tomorrow," his lawyers told him.

All three suspects waited for eleven hours, alone with their hopes and fears. And tonight for the first time during this whole process, they've really understood that their lives can never be the way they were before November 2nd of last year. In the preceding days, during the hearings in front of the judge, the three have actively participated in the debate, continuously asking their lawyers for explanations, and listening attentively to each intervention. Today, however, was different: their faces were overcome with tension. When the judge withdrew to chambers, in counsel, they began to have fear. So closed up and alone in their cells, they sought comfort with the only people they could approach, their lawyers and the prison police officers. "I want only to leave, it's not important where they send me, but it's important I leave prison," confessed Raffaele Sollecito, showing his fear: his lawyers described him as a "frightened bird," and announced the battle: "We will do other tests in the course of

## About

On the evening of November 1st, 2007, a young British woman was brutally murdered in Perugia, Italy. Her name was Meredith Kercher, and she was studying in Perugia at the University for Foreigners. Her murder shocked the international student community as well as the rest of the city, and attracted a great deal of media attention.

Because Ms. Kercher was from the United Kingdom and one of her suspected killers, her own roommate and a fellow student, is from the United States, this story is of interest to an English speaking audience. But because the Italian language is not commonly understood, and the Italian justice system even less so, in the two English speaking countries, some misunderstandings have arisen. This site aims to rectify the situation by translating news from the Italian media into English, and by discussing some details of the complex Italian justice system.

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