



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

**MUHAMMAD SAHIN
W68017**

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: January 29, 2026

DATE OF DECISION: July 2, 2026

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sarah B. Coughlin, Angelo Gomez Jr., James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in 2 years from the date of the hearing.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On April 24, 2000, in Worcester Superior Court, Muhammad Sahin pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of 20-year-old Luz Maria Martinez Rondeau and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, she also pleaded guilty to burglary and conspiracy to commit murder and received two concurrent terms of 10 to 15 years in state prison. Parole was denied after an initial hearing in 2014 and a review hearing in 2021.

On January 29, 2026, Ms. Sahin's appeared before the Board for a review hearing. She was represented by Attorney Patty DeJuneas. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Ms. Sahin's January 29, 2026, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: Muhammad Sahin was a member of a security threat group (STG) and acted in his capacity as a "soldier" on the night of the murder. Luz Maria Martinez Rondeau was the ex-girlfriend of the designated leader of the security threat group. Ms. Rondeau was scheduled to testify against her ex-boyfriend at a trial for a prior home invasion in which two occupants were shot and one was killed.

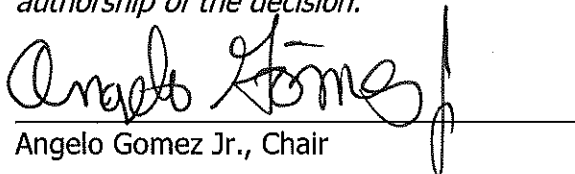
On February 23, 1999, 22-year-old Muhammad Sahin was at a Worcester bar when another member of the security threat group arrived. The other STG member informed Ms. Sahin that he

was there to deliver a message from the group's leader to murder Ms. Rondeau. Ms. Sahin then left the bar and went to a late-night house party before joining co-defendant Jesus Mercedes. The two drove to Ms. Rondeau's apartment and parked up the street. Ms. Sahin exited the car, walked to the apartment building, and went up the stairs to the third floor. She then kicked in the door, entered the apartment, and immediately went to Ms. Rondeau's bedroom, where she was sleeping with her 3-year-old daughter. Ms. Sahin shot Ms. Rondeau in the head and then fled the scene. Ms. Rondeau died shortly thereafter.

APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole “[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society.” M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. In making this determination, the Board takes into consideration an inmate’s institutional behavior, their participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize the inmate’s risk of recidivism. M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. The Board also considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the inmate’s testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: This was Ms. Sahin’s third appearance before the Parole Board. She was 22 years old at the time of the offense and has been incarcerated for 26 years. Since the last hearing, she has engaged in a forensic risk assessment by Dr. Guidry that was considered by the Board. Dr. Guidry’s report informed the Board about her current risk/needs and contributing factors to her offending behavior and institutional adjustment. Ms. Sahin was recently diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria (2023), and stated she has since been able to start receiving needed treatment. She has gained more insight into her emotional and behavioral issues. Ms. Sahin has remained engaged in programming and appears to be benefiting. Ms. Sahin’s stability has been more recent in comparison to her history. The Board is of the opinion that a longer period of treatment and stability is necessary and encourages her to continue on this positive path. The Board also recommends she share Dr. Guidry’s report with her providers. The Board considered public testimony in rendering its decision including testimony in support of parole from a licensed clinical social worker and Ms. Sahin’s son. The Board also considered testimony in opposition to parole from Ms. Rondeau’s daughter and Worcester County Assistant District Attorney Anne Kennedy. The Board concludes that Muhammad Sahin has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make her release compatible with the welfare of society.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above-referenced hearing. Pursuant to G.L. c. 127, § 130, I further certify that all voting Board Members have reviewed the applicant’s entire criminal record. This signature does not indicate authorship of the decision.


Angelo Gomez Jr., Chair

July 2, 2026
Date