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**Your Honor**

Kuwasi Balagoon

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your honor  
since i've been convicted of murder  
and have taken time to digest  
just what that means  
after noting what it means to my family  
and how it affects people who read the newspapers  
and all  
i see now that i've made a terrible mistake!  
and didn't approach this trial  
in a respectful, deliberate or thoughtful manner  
didn't take advantage of the best legal advice  
and based my actions on irrelevant matters  
which i can see now in a much more sober mind  
had nothing to do with this case  
i must have been legally insane thinking about:  
the twenty five murders of children in atlanta  
    since  
Wayne Williams' capture  
the recent murder of a man in boston by the police  
the recent murders of two in chicago by police  
the shooting of a five-year-old little boy in subur-  
    ban calif  
the lynchings in alabama  
the mob murder of a transit worker in brooklyn  
the murders of fourteen women in boston  
feeling that this is evidence of something  
and that there must  
be a lesson in all this — i thought  
murder was legal