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Bodyguard sentenced to death for murder

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GEORGE TOWN: A bodyguard has been sentenced to death by hanging for the murder of three people, including his boss who was a businessman with the title Datuk.

Ja'afar Halid, 41, was found guilty by the High Court for the shooting of businessman Datuk Ong Teik Kwong, professional clown Choi Hon Ming and flower supplier M. Senthil.

The killings, which happened on the Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu Expressway in 2016, was big news as the shooting happened on a busy highway that also led to the death of Choi and Senthil, who were passers-by.

Back then, a 1km stretch of the expressway was closed for six hours to enable police to search for evidence.

Ja'afar appeared calm when the



Facing the law: Ja'afar being led out of the Penang High Court, George Town. — CHAN BOON KAI/ The Star

sentence was read out yesterday.

He was also found guilty of five counts of attempted murder.

Ja'afar was sentenced to 15 years' jail for the attempted murder of Dr K. Arivarni, TNB Bhd assistant manager Nurul Huda Ab Aziz, factory

worker Lee Hong Boon, RTM videographer Mohamad Amirul Amin Mohamed Amer and bank worker Puoh Bee Joo. All of them happened to be at the scene.

He was found guilty of committing the offences on the Penang

Bridge south-bound exit of the expressway between 7.15pm and 7.30pm on Dec 1, 2016.

Ja'afar was charged under Sections 302 and 307 of the Penal Code for murder and attempted murder, which carry the death penalty and life sentence respectively upon conviction.

High Court judge Justice Abdul Wahab Mohamed, when handing down the sentence, said the defence failed to prove that the accused was of unsound mind and under the influence of drugs during the time of the shooting.

The prosecution, said Abdul Wahab, had proven beyond reasonable doubt that Ja'afar was guilty of the crime.

Ja'afar's lawyer Y. Anbananthan, who spoke to newsmen outside the court, said he would appeal on behalf of his client as there was sufficient evidence to prove legal and medical insanity.