

[chron.com](https://www.chron.com)

Maryland man sentenced in slaying of American Indian activist

2 minutes

July 8, 2003 Updated: Aug. 3, 2016 10:59 p.m.

A Maryland man has received a life prison term in the slaying of a 70-year-old parolee who had become an activist for prison inmates and an advocate for American Indians.

Pius Vinton Smashed Ice, a Lakota Indian, will not be eligible for parole for 30 years. The 38-year-old man pleaded guilty in May to the Jan. 20 stabbing death of Standing Deer, a Choctaw Oneida also known as Robert Hugh Wilson.

Smashed Ice originally told police that burglars broke into Standing Deer's Houston townhouse and that he found the activist dead. But authorities said Smashed Ice later admitted that he killed Standing Deer during a violent argument.

Defense attorney Randy Ayers had asked state District Judge Belinda Hill to consider a lesser sentence Tuesday. Because Smashed Ice has a prior assault conviction in South Dakota, the minimum punishment he was facing was 15 years.

Ayers said Smashed Ice had come to Houston from Baltimore to help Standing Deer with his activism.

Information from: Houston Chronicle

