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'It is a very sad day when a prolonged trial and decision and sentencing by a jury that took 4.5 months to seat is overturned by a legislature that ignores the wishes of the people of CT,' he said in a text message via Twitter on Wednesday.

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He added: 'The insult is compounded by a Supreme Court that rules on not one but 2 cases based on personal opinions and politics and not the law.'

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Hayes was sentenced to death in 2010 after being convicted of murder, first-degree kidnapping, first-degree sexual assault and 13 other counts.

????2010????????????????????????????????????13????

Co-defendant Joshua Komisarjevsky was also sentenced to death in 2011.

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But in 2012 the Connecticut House of Representatives voted to repeal capital punishment, stopping it from being handed out in future cases.

???2012????????????????????????????????

Originally, the 11 people on death row - including Hayes and Komisarjevsky - were still to face execution.

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But in August last year that was deemed to be 'cruel and unusual punishment' and their death sentences were commuted.

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Hayes's trial, which ended Wednesday is the first in a series deciding what will be done with those men. Komisarjevsky and the other nine men who were on death row have yet to face theirs.

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Petit and his family declined to make a statement in court, saying they had already said what needed to be said during the trial, as did Hayes and his public defender Thomas Ullmann.

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Superior Court judge Jon C. Blue concluded: 'With the gravity of these crimes and the depravity of your character, nothing more needs to be said.'

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He then handed down six consecutive sentences of life without possibility of parole, followed by a total of 106 years for Hayes's crimes.

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