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Bryan Kohberger Sent to Maximum Security After Life Sentences for Idaho Student Murders

July 24, 2025

— Categories: Crime



Bryan Kohberger, 30, has officially been sentenced to four consecutive life terms plus an additional decade behind bars for the brutal killings of four University of Idaho students. Kohberger's sentencing on Wednesday also marked the end of a high-profile case that has left a lasting scar on the small college town of Moscow, Idaho.

Following the sentencing, Kohberger was transported to the Idaho State Correctional Institution in Kuna, approximately 16 miles from the courthouse. The former criminal justice student was then swiftly transferred to a maximum-security facility, where he is expected to remain for the rest of his life.

According to a source who spoke to *Fox News Digital*, he was already in state custody by Wednesday afternoon. The Idaho Department of Corrections (IDOC) said he will first undergo evaluation at the Reception and Diagnostic Unit (RDU), which typically takes 7 to 14 days. This process includes psychological assessments to determine his threat level and housing placement.

Paul Mauro, a retired New York Police Department (NYPD) inspector and Fox News contributor, suggested that Kohberger would likely be placed in solitary confinement at least temporarily. “In the general population, he is vulnerable, and he’s notorious, and in prison, especially for lifers, your reputation as being dangerous and just your reputation in general is the currency,” Mauro explained. “So there could be somebody looking to do him.”

Idaho is a death penalty state, and Mauro pointed out that inmates already serving life sentences may have little to lose by targeting high-profile offenders like Kohberger.

Josh Ritter, a former prosecutor and host of “The Courtroom Confidential” podcast, agreed Kohberger is unlikely to leave the state’s prison system. “He’s not going anywhere,” Ritter said plainly to *Fox News Digital*.

Kohberger’s victims, identified as Madison Mogen, 21, Kaylee Goncalves, 21, Xana Kernodle, 20, and Ethan Chapin, 20, were all stabbed to death in their off-campus home in November 2022.

During the sentencing hearing, victims’ families gave powerful impact statements, some showing remarkable grace while others expressed pure rage. Kristi Goncalves, the mother of Kaylee, addressed Kohberger directly with words believed to mirror what one victim heard during the attack. “When those prison doors slam shut behind you, I hope that sound echoes in your heart for the rest of your meaningless days,” she said. “I hope it reminds you of what we all already know. You’re nothing. May you continue to live your life in misery. But it’s OK because they’re there to help you.’ Hell will be waiting.”

Goncalves' relatives also made veiled references to the potential threats Kohberger may face inside prison, suggesting that more dominant inmates may target him.

Documents released by Moscow Police revealed that Kohberger was not prevalent among fellow inmates during his pre-sentencing detainment. One male inmate told a female prisoner during transport that he considered Kohberger a “f—ing weirdo” and would have attacked him if not for the risk of additional charges. “His eyes tell a story,” he added when asked if he believed Kohberger was guilty.

Another inmate claimed that Kohberger spent significant time video chatting with his mother. During one such call, the inmate reportedly shouted “you suck” at a sports player on television. Kohberger allegedly “immediately got up and put his face to the bars” and “aggressively asked if was talking about him or his mother.”

The life sentences, handed down by a judge who offered no leniency, mark what Latah County Prosecutor Bill Thompson called “life and death in prison.” There will be no parole, no reduction, and likely no peace for a man whose name is now etched into one of Idaho's most horrific crimes.