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**D.A. BROWN: BRONX MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON
FOR BLUDGEONING TO DEATH EX-GIRLFRIEND AND SETTING HER BODY ON FIRE**
*Defendant Drove Couple's Two-Year-Old Son From Queens Murder Scene With Mother's Body Inside
Van*

_____ Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Bronx man has been sentenced to 20 years to life in prison for fatally attacking the mother of his two-year-old son with a hammer in December 2003 and then driving to his residence with her body and the couple's two-year-old son in the vehicle. He later placed her body in a dumpster and set it on fire at a Queens gas station.

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Johnny Medina, 29, of 215 East 197th Street in the Bronx, unemployed. The defendant interrupted his murder trial on May 18, 2006 to plead guilty to second-degree murder, fifth-degree arson and endangering the welfare of a child before Queens Supreme Court Justice Robert J. Hanophy, who presided at his trial and today's sentencing.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has now been held accountable for the brutal murder of the mother of his two-year-old child. His actions were violent and ruthless and have left his young son deeply and permanently traumatized and facing a life without his mother's love and guidance. Under the circumstance, the sentence imposed is more than warranted."

The District Attorney said that in pleading guilty the defendant admitted that on the morning of December 10, 2003, while sitting in his van parked in the vicinity of Elmhurst Avenue and Denman Street in Elmhurst, Queens, he and his ex-girlfriend, Edna Figueroa, 33, a medical office receptionist, got into a verbal dispute and that he hit her in the head with a hammer, intentionally causing her death. The victim had separated with the defendant two years prior to the incident.

District Attorney Brown said that the defendant then placed the couple's two-year-old son in the van with Figueroa's body in the back and drove to his Bronx residence. The defendant later placed her body along with a quantity of gasoline inside a garbage dumpster next to a Getty gas station at 231-06 Northern Boulevard in Douglaston, Queens, and set it on fire. He then fled the scene. The next morning the owner of the gas station found the victim's body and called police. Detectives were able to identify the victim through her jewelry and DNA which led to the defendant's apprehension on December 15, 2003.

The investigation was conducted by Detective David Gilbert formerly of the NYPD's 111 Precinct's Detective Squad.

Assistant District Attorney Shawn Clark of the District Attorney's Homicide Trials Bureau prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Brad A. Leventhal, Bureau Chief and Jack Warsawsky, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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Note to Editors: E-version of press release is posted on www.queensda.org