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**D.A. BROWN: FIVE CHARGED IN BRUTAL FRESH MEADOW MELEE THAT RESULTED  
IN FATAL STABBING OF ONE AND SERIOUS HEAD INJURIES TO ANOTHER**  
*Defendants Allegedly Fought With Golf Clubs, Metal Pipes, Hammers and Knives*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that five young people involved in a brutal street fight in the Fresh Meadows section of Queens four days ago that left a 20-year-old man dead and a 16-year-old boy in a drug-induced coma have been charged with multiple felonies stemming from their roles in the clash.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendants are accused of turning the streets of Fresh Meadows into a battlefield by savagely beating one another with golf clubs, metal pipes, hammers and other weapons. When it was over, a 20-year-old lay dying and a 16-year-old youngster lay critically injured. The defendants' alleged actions are an unfortunate example of the senseless violence that we too often see today."

The District Attorney identified two of the defendants as Diljeet Singh, 25, and his brother, Ranjit Singh, 21, both of 188-20 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Fresh Meadows, Queens. The Singhs are each charged with Murder in the Second Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Fourth Degree. If convicted, they each face up to 25 years to life in prison.

The other three defendants – Michael Fraraccio, 17, of 145-77 Fourth Avenue in Whitestone, Queens, Joseph Romano, 16, and his brother, Salvatore Romano, 18, both of 145-51 Sixth Avenue, also in Whitestone – are charged with Gang Assault in the First Degree, Assault in the First Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Fourth Degree. If convicted, they each face up to 25 years in prison.

The District Attorney said that, according to a criminal complaint filed in the case, on the afternoon of March 12, 2006, in the vicinity of 193-15 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Ranjit Singh stabbed 20-year-old Anthony Vangi with a knife and that his brother, Diljeet Singh, hit the victim in the head with a hammer. The victim was taken to New York Hospital, where he died as a direct result of the injuries that he sustained in the attack.

District Attorney Brown added that a second complaint charges that at the same time and place, Fraraccio and the two Romano brothers, together with several unapprehended others, beat a 16-year-old unidentified boy with a golf club, a metal pipe and other blunt objects, causing serious physical injuries. The victim was taken to a local Queens hospital and placed in an induced coma.

The defendants were arraigned last night before Queens Criminal Court Judge Alex J. Zigman, who ordered the Singhs remanded without bail and set bail for Fraraccio and the two Romanos at \$50,000 bond/\$20,000 cash. The Singhs' next court date is March 17 and the other three defendants were ordered to return to court on March 28.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives James Wood and Edward Caddle of the New York City Police Department's 107<sup>th</sup> Detective Squad under the supervision of Sergeant Branco Yurisak.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Neal J. Morse, of District Attorney Brown's Homicide Investigations Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Peter T. Reese, Bureau Chief, Peter J. McCormack III, Deputy Bureau Chief, and Richard B. Schaeffer, Senior Trial Attorney, 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.

It should be noted that criminal complaints are merely accusations and that the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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**Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**