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D.A. BROWN: QUEENS PET STORE MANAGER CONVICTED
IN STABBING DEATH OF TEENAGER

Faces 25 Years to Life in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that the manager of a family-owned pet store has been convicted of stabbing to death a Jackson Heights teenager.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has been found guilty by a jury of the vicious and brutal murder of a young man. I hope that the victim's family will find some degree of solace in today's conviction and in the knowledge that the defendant will be sent to prison for a long time as punishment for his actions."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Darwin Roque, 27, of 94-21 41st Avenue in Jackson Heights, who, at the time of the murder, was the manager of the Horizon Pet Shop at 88-20 37th Avenue, also in Jackson Heights. Roque was convicted this afternoon of second-degree murder and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon after a four-week jury trial before Queens Supreme Court Justice Randall Eng. The defendant, who had been released on \$500,000 bail, was ordered remanded. He faces 25 years to life in prison when sentenced on December 20, 2006, the third anniversary of the victim's death.

The District Attorney said that, according to trial testimony, the defendant stabbed the victim, Wilson Argudo, 17, eight times in the chest and face with a butterfly knife, fatally wounding him. The murder occurred on the evening of December 20, 2003, in the vicinity of Roosevelt Avenue and 90th Street in Jackson Heights.

Assistant District Attorneys Kenneth M. Appelbaum, Deputy Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, and Mina Q. Malik prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Marjory D. Fisher, 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 posted at www.queensda.org.