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D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN CONVICTED
IN 2003 SHOOTING MURDER OF RAP ARTIST

Faces Up to 25 Years to Life in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 32-year-old Queens resident has been convicted of murdering an up-and-coming Queens rap artist in September 2003 by shooting him once at close range and then firing additional shots at him as he lay on the sidewalk.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has been held accountable for the cold-blooded murder of a 26-year-old man who he shot on a busy Queens street. His conduct not only took a life, but also endangered the lives of others. It warrants imposition of a lengthy prison sentence to punish him and protect society."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Vincent Rosa, 32, of 177-27 106th Avenue in Jamaica, Queens. He was convicted earlier today, following a two-week jury trial, of second-degree murder and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon after one day of deliberations. Queens Supreme Court Justice Randall T. Eng, who presided at trial, set sentencing for March 7, 2007. The defendant faces up to 25 years to life in prison.

The District Attorney said that, according to trial testimony, the defendant, armed with an illegal gun, approached Gerald Fields, 26, also known as "DO Canon," a signed artist with Murder Inc., Records, as he was walking on 177th Street at approximately 11:43 p.m. on September 4, 2003, and shot him once at close range. When Fields fell to the pavement in front of 104-11 177th Street, the defendant stood over him and fired multiple shots into his body, killing him and then fleeing the scene. According to trial testimony, the defendant shot the victim when he arrived at a birthday party being celebrated on the street.

Assistant District Attorney John W. Kosinski 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: Press release e-version posted on www.queensda.org