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**D.A. BROWN: THREE TEENAGERS CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER
IN WOODSIDE "GRAFFITI" INCIDENT**

*Victim Allegedly Choked, Stabbed With Knife, Slashed With a Razor, Threatened With a Gun,
Hit With a Chair and Run Over Twice By SUV*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that three Queens teenagers have been charged with the botched murder attempt last Friday in Woodside of a 24-year-old man who they believed had tagged one of their residences with graffiti.

District Attorney Brown said, "The victim was allegedly choked, stabbed with a knife, slashed with a razor and had a loaded gun pointed at him by the defendants before the SUV he and they were riding in crashed into a road sign and he managed to briefly escape before they caught up with him and hit him numerous times with a wooden chair and twice with their vehicle. Fortunately, the victim survived the vicious ordeal and is expected to recover from his injuries. Those who believe that they are victims of criminal conduct are reminded that they must never attempt to take the law into their own hands."

The District Attorney identified the defendants as Ali Khan, 19, of 34-11 61st Street in Woodside, Aamer Khan, 18, of 45-53 40th Street in Woodside, and Christian Diaz, 17, of 41-16 12th Street in Long Island City. All three defendants have been charged with second-degree attempted murder, first-degree assault and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon. The defendants face up to 25 years in prison if convicted.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, on the evening of January 5, 2007, in the vicinity of 44th Street and 53rd Avenue, the 24-year-old victim was riding in a 2003 Ford Explorer with the three defendants and an unapprehended male known as "Joey" when the defendant Ali Khan – seated behind the victim – put a belt around his neck, pulled his neck back and began choking him. Meanwhile, it is alleged that "Joey" – who was seated next to the victim – stabbed him with a knife multiple times in the stomach. At the same time, the defendant Diaz – who was seated in front of the victim – allegedly turned around in his seat and began slashing the victim's hands and face with a razor blade, while the defendant Aamer Khan, who was driving, allegedly turned around and pointed a gray .32 caliber revolver at the victim, pulling the trigger numerous times but failing to discharge any bullets.

The complaint further charges that the Explorer then crashed and the victim escaped. However, the defendant Ali Khan and "Joey" gave chase and caught up with him at approximately 44th Street and 54th Avenue and hit him numerous times with a wooden chair. Meanwhile, the defendants Aamer Khan and Diaz who were still in the Explorer repeatedly drove toward the victim, hitting him twice with the vehicle.

The District Attorney said that a police officer from the 108th Precinct observed the defendants Aamer Khan and Diaz running down the street covered in blood. When stopped by the officer, Aamer Khan allegedly admitted that the Explorer belonged to him. When police examined the Explorer, they allegedly found the vehicle with blood all over the inside and the .32 caliber revolver, loaded with one live round, and a bloody knife with a broken blade clearly visible on the driver's seat.

District Attorney Brown said that the victim – identified as Anthony Albaricci – was being treated at a local Queens hospital, where he required more than 100 stitches and surgery to repair his injuries.

District Attorney Brown said that the defendants were arrested over the weekend by police officers from the 108th Precinct and arraigned Sunday, January 7, 2007, before Queens Criminal Court Judge Fernando Camacho, who ordered each defendant held on \$250,000 bail and set a return date of January 22, 2007. According to statements made to prosecutors, the defendants allegedly attacked the victim because Amer Khan reportedly owed the victim money and became upset when the victim sprayed graffiti on Amer Khan's building.

The District Attorney noted that the investigation was continuing.

Assistant District Attorney Paul E. Schraeter, of the District Attorney's Kew Gardens I Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Francesco Catarisiano, Bureau Chief, and Robin D. Leopold and Raymond E. Scheer, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys for Trials John H. Larsen and Robert J. Masters.

It should be noted that criminal charges are merely accusations and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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Note to Editors: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org