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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DEFENDANT INDICTED BY GRAND JURY FOR FIRST-DEGREE MURDER IN THE SLAYING OF GIRLFRIEND AND HER FAMILY INSIDE HER JAMAICA HOME**

*Defendant Fled to Maine and Extradited to Queens on Friday;  
Faces Up to Life in Prison if Convicted*

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz announced today that Travis Blake, 29, has been indicted by a Queens County grand jury and arraigned in Supreme Court on murder charges and other crimes for the June 2022 murders of his girlfriend, her adult son and niece inside her Jamaica home. The defendant fled to Maine and was returned to New York on Friday.

District Attorney Katz said, “As alleged, this defendant carried out a horrific triple murder and then fled the state, leaving a devastated family and a mourning community in his wake. Such brutal disregard for human life will not go unanswered. Despite being on the run immediately following the murder, the defendant is now in custody and faces justice in our courts.”

Blake, of 155<sup>th</sup> Street, Jamaica, Queens, was arraigned yesterday before Queens Supreme Court Justice Ushir Pandit-Durant on a six-count indictment charging him with murder in the first degree, three-counts of murder in the second degree, and two-counts of criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree. Justice Pandit-Durant ordered the defendant to return to court on October 18, 2022. If convicted, Blake faces up to life in prison.

According to the indictment, on June 24, 2022, at approximately 3:05 a.m., police responded to a 911 call at the defendant’s residence on 155<sup>th</sup> Street in Jamaica, Queens and discovered the three victims inside the home, 55-year-old Karlene Barnett, her 36-year-old son Dervon Brightly and her 22-year-old niece Vashawwna Malcolm. All of them had been deceased for approximately two days.

Continuing, according to the charges, video surveillance footage showing the entry points of the defendant’s 155<sup>th</sup> Street residence on June 22<sup>nd</sup> depicted the defendant in the backyard at approximately 2:50 p.m. apparently bleeding from a hand injury and using a hammer to drive a nail into a beam of wood. The defendant then entered the house where victim Brightly had previously entered approximately thirty minutes earlier. Several hours later, at approximately 7:30 p.m., victim Barnett entered the residence and never exited again.

According to the charges, on June 24<sup>th</sup> a witness who also lives at the residence, noticed an odor from the bedroom of victim Malcolm and discovered her body after opening the door. The witness called 911 and police responded to the residence.

Once on the scene, according to the indictment, detectives discovered Ms. Malcolm deceased in her second-floor bedroom, undressed from the waist down, and bound with duct tape with several apparent puncture wounds to her chest. Police gained entry to a locked basement door and followed a trail of blood to a bedroom where Ms. Barnett was discovered with apparent head trauma injuries and several puncture wounds to her body. Police also discovered Mr. Malcolm in the basement who had head trauma injuries and puncture wounds on his body.

Continuing, police also recovered several blood-stained items including a hammer, screwdriver and a beam of wood with a nail embedded in it. Items including a blood-stained bucket, blood-stained bottles of household cleaner and a mop were also recovered. Police recovered the cellphone, passport and valuables of the defendant at the house.

Police apprehended the defendant on June 30 in Bar Harbor, Maine.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Joseph Manzella of the New York City Police Department's 113th Precinct.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Jonathan A. Selkove of the District Attorney's Homicide Bureau is prosecuting the case, with the assistance of Assistant District Attorney Antonio Vittiglio, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Peter J. McCormack III and John Kosinski, Senior Deputy Bureau Chiefs, Karen Ross, Deputy Bureau Chief, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

*Criminal complaints and indictments are accusations. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.*

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