



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY**
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000

Release #154-2006
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2006

CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE
(718) 286-6315

D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN WHO FLED TO LONDON
CHARGED IN 2001 BEATING DEATH OF JACKSON HEIGHTS MAN

Faces 25 Years to Life in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a former Queens resident who fled to England following the savage beating death of a 35-year-old Jackson Heights man in August 2001 has been charged in that murder. The defendant was arrested last night at JFK Airport following a flight from London.

District Attorney Brown said, "According to the charges, the defendant – a 38-year-old male – intentionally and with depraved indifference to human life caused the death of a 35-year-old man. The crime is one more shocking example of mindless violence that takes innocent lives and recklessly endangers public safety."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as John L. McGhee, 38, formerly of 27-10 Macintosh Street in Jackson Heights and of 17 Sutton Way in London, England. He is being held pending arraignment later tonight in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens on charges of two counts of Murder in the Second Degree, one count of Manslaughter in the First Degree and one count of Attempted Robbery in the First Degree. If convicted, he faces up to 25 years to life in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, on August 15, 2001 at approximately 4:00 a.m., the defendant hit Edgar Garzon, 35, of 76-10 34th Avenue in Jackson Heights, in the head with a blunt object, fracturing his skull, and then attempted to rob him. Garzon, a native of Colombia who worked as a theater set designer, lapsed into a coma and died on September 4, 2001, at Elmhurst Hospital Center as a result of the injuries he suffered in the attack. The incident allegedly occurred at 35-05 77th Street after the victim left the Friends Tavern on Roosevelt Avenue.

District Attorney Brown said that McGhee was arrested last night at John F. Kennedy Airport following a flight from London. McGhee was reportedly told to leave England for lying on his citizenship application.

Assistant District Attorney Peter T. Reese, Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Homicide Investigations Bureau, is prosecuting the case under 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 charges are merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

#

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