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**D.A. BROWN: FOUR BAR PATRONS CHARGED IN STABBING DEATH
OF ONE VICTIM AND GANG ASSAULT OF FOUR OTHERS**

Face 75 Years to Life in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that four men have been charged with the murder of a Queens man and the assault of four men shortly after they left a Corona bar yesterday morning.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendants are accused of acting with wolf pack mentality as they went on a violent rampage during the pre-dawn hours of yesterday, chasing down and randomly assaulting anyone who got in their way. It is alleged that in their wake they left one man brutally beaten and dead from knife wounds and four others requiring medical attention after being viciously pummeled and/or stabbed."

The District Attorney identified the defendants as Gregorio Ocult, 19, of 88-20 145th Street, Felix Ceca, 23, of 179 Hillside Avenue and Victor Gonzalez, 21, of 83-16 Parsons Boulevard, all in Jamaica, and Luis Romero, 24, of 180 Main Street in Ridgefield Park, New Jersey. The defendants, who are friends and work in restaurants, have each been charged with one count of second-degree murder, two counts of second-degree attempted murder, two counts of first-degree gang assault, two counts of first-degree assault, two counts of third-degree assault and one count of fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon. If convicted, they each face up to 75 years to life in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal complaint, the four defendants left a Roosevelt Avenue bar shortly before 4:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 6, 2006, and immediately confronted 27-year-old Jorge Vasquez outside of 95-02 Roosevelt Avenue, who they stabbed and pummeled with their hands and feet numerous times, killing him. Thereafter, it is alleged that the defendants attacked four men who had just exited the Tursingno Bar, also on Roosevelt Avenue. Two of the men, ages 20 and 30, were pummeled and stabbed, a third man, age 26, was punched in the face and suffered a laceration and the fourth man, age 30, was kicked multiple times. Both surviving stab victims are presently being treated at a New York City hospital. The names of all four assault victims are being withheld.

District Attorney Brown said that the defendants were arrested yesterday morning at the scene by police officers assigned to the New York City Police Department's 110th Precinct. Detective Hector Rivera of the 110th Precinct Detective Squad conducted the investigation under the supervision of Lieutenant Edward Rutter, Commanding Officer.

The defendants were arraigned this afternoon before Queens Criminal Court Judge Alex J. Zigman, who ordered the defendants held without bail.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Marissa B. Gillespie of the District Attorney's Homicide Investigations Bureau under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Peter T. Reese, Bureau Chief, and Peter J. McCormack III, 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.

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation 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