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Release #33-2006
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2006

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D.A. BROWN: DEFENDANT ARRAIGNED IN FATAL BLUDGEONING OF YOUNG MAN
Victim Allegedly Beaten to Death in 2004 With Metal Pipe; Defendant Faces Up to 25 Years to Life In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Queens man who fled the United States to Mexico after allegedly fatally beating a Queens man in a Jackson Heights alleyway in March 2004 has been arraigned on an indictment charging him with murder and weapons possession.

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Pedro Tadeo-Morales, 24, of 41-15 72nd Street in Elmhurst, Queens, no known employment. He was arraigned earlier today before Queens Supreme Court Justice Randall T. Eng, who ordered him held without bail, on a three-count indictment charging him with Murder in the Second Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third and Fourth Degrees. If convicted he faces up to 25 years to life in prison.

District Attorney Brown said, "According to the charges, the defendant bludgeoned to death a 22-year-old male with a metal pipe in a Queens alley in March 2004. It is believed that the defendant then fled to Mexico, where he lived for more than a year before returning to New York City. He was arrested in April 2005 on an unrelated charge. The crime is another example of mindless violence that takes lives and endangers public safety."

The District Attorney said the indictment charges that, during the pre-dawn hours of March 15, 2004 in an alleyway located at 40-21 74th Street in Jackson Heights, the defendant beat the victim, Carlos Pesantes, 22, numerous times with a metal pipe about the head, face and neck, causing his death. The defendant, who was allegedly dressed as a woman, is alleged to have admitted to giving oral sex to the victim for money before the incident occurred.

District Attorney Brown said the investigation was conducted by Detective James Vaughan of the New York City Police Department's 110th Precinct Detective Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Edward Rutter, Commanding Officer.

Assistant District Attorney Denise Tirino of the District Attorney's Homicide Trials Bureau is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Jack Warsawsky, Deputy Bureau Chief and with the assistance of Assistant District Attorney Travis W. Hunter of the District Attorney's Homicide Investigations Bureau under the supervision of 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 an indictment is merely an accusation and that the 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.