



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

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CONTACT: KEVIN RYAN
NICOLE NAVAS
MERIS CAMPBELL
(718)286-6315

**D.A. BROWN: REGO PARK TEENAGER SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON
FOR 2004 CHRISTMAS EVE MURDER OF YOUNG MAN OUTSIDE MOVIE THEATER**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a now 17-year-old Rego Park youth convicted of stabbing two 20-year-old men – killing one and critically wounding the other – during a 2004 Christmas Eve incident involving two groups of youths outside of the Midway Theater in Forest Hills has been sentenced to 15 years to life in prison.

District Attorney Brown said, “The crimes of which the defendant has been convicted were senseless and vicious and perpetrated by an immature individual who chose a weapon over words to settle a verbal dispute. I hope that the surviving victim and all of those affected by these two tragic incidents can find some degree of solace in today’s sentence and in the knowledge that the defendant will be behind bars for many years as punishment for his actions.”

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Pierre Arias, 17, of 64-33 99th Street in Rego Park. He was convicted of second-degree murder and second-degree attempted murder on September 12, 2006 following a three-week jury trial. Queens Supreme Court Justice Randall T. Eng, who presided at trial, imposed today’s maximum sentence of 15 years to life in prison.

The District Attorney said that three others individuals have been charged in the incident and identified them as Daniel Cho, 17, of 72-34 Austin Street and brothers Peter Gerardi, 21, and Herman Gerardi, 19, both of 20 Whitson Street, all in Forest Hills. Herman Gerardi previously pleaded guilty to second-degree attempted gang assault and is awaiting sentencing on October 26, 2006. Defendants Cho and Peter Gerardi are presently awaiting trial.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, the four defendants allegedly attacked Davey Adames and Yajdiel Collado, both 20, just after midnight on December 24, 2004 outside of the Midway Theater, located at 108-22 Queens Boulevard in Forest Hills. Arias, then 15-years-old, repeatedly stabbed Mr. Adames in the abdomen, back, arm and face, killing him, and stabbed Mr. Collado in the arm and back, seriously wounding him. All three co-defendants allegedly repeatedly punched and kicked the victims.

Assistant District Attorney Peter V. Lomp, of the District Attorney’s Homicide Trials Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Brad A. Leventhal, Bureau Chief, and Jack Warsawsky, 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.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at www.queensda.org.