



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

**RICHARD A. BROWN**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE**  
(718) 286-6315

**D.A. BROWN: RIDGEWOOD MAN ARRAIGNED ON MURDER CHARGES**  
**IN SHOOTING DEATH OF NEIGHBORHOOD MAN**

*Faces Up to 25 Years to Life In Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Ridgewood contractor has been arraigned on murder charges in the shooting death of a neighborhood man who he claimed threatened him and his family and pulled a gun on him.

District Attorney Brown said, "Allegedly armed with an illegal weapon, the defendant is accused of turning his quiet Ridgewood street into a Wild West shooting gallery that not only put innocent bystanders at risk but resulted in the untimely death of one man. The incident underscores my office's commitment to remain vigilant in the fight to rid the streets of Queens County of illegal handguns."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Lulzim Kupa, 42, of 60-30 Putnam Avenue in Ridgewood. The defendant, who owns Marvelous Stairs and Handrails in Flushing, was arraigned earlier today before Queens Criminal Court Judge Gene Lopez on charges of second-degree murder and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon. Kupa, who faces up to 25 years to life in prison if convicted, was ordered held on \$100,000 bail and to return to court on August 16, 2007.

District Attorney Brown said that a criminal complaint charges that the defendant repeatedly and fatally shot Gentian Kasa, 42, of Linden Street, in front of his residence at approximately 10:30 p.m. on July 31, 2007. At the time of his arrest, Kupa was allegedly found to be in possession of two loaded firearms – a .357 caliber Magnum revolver and a Walther PPK .380 caliber pistol.

In statements he allegedly made to the police, Kupa claimed that Kasa wanted to meet with him and that on July 31<sup>st</sup>, Kasa and another man approached him outside his residence. They allegedly made threats against Kupa's wife and mother and tried to force their way into the house. When the two men allegedly pulled out guns, the defendant pulled out his own gun and fired at them. As the two men ran off, Kasa dropped the gun he was allegedly carrying – a Walther PPK .380 caliber pistol – and Kupa picked it up. Believing that Kasa had a machine gun in his car, Kupa stated that he chased after him and shot Kasa when he got to the car.

Assistant District Attorney Michael D. Vozzo, of the District Attorney's Homicide Investigations Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Peter T. Reese, Bureau Chief, and Peter J. McCormack III, Deputy Bureau Chief, and Senior Assistant District Attorney Richard B. Schaeffer, 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 criminal charges are merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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**Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**