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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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D.A. BROWN: ELMHURST RESIDENT CHARGED
IN "GOOD SAMARITAN" STABBING DEATH

Faces Up to Life in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that an Elmhurst man who was involved in an argument with a female acquaintance outside his house yesterday morning has been charged with stabbing to death a young Ecuadoran immigrant who came to her aid.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant is accused of senselessly stabbing to death a young immigrant who had come to this country to make a better life for himself. Instead, he was tragically robbed of his future when he tried to help someone he perceived to be in need."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Rafael Camargo, 41, of 87-35 Elmhurst Avenue in Elmhurst. Camarago, who is employed as a carpenter and painter, is being held pending arraignment in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens on charges of second-degree murder, fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon and tampering with evidence. If convicted, the defendant faces up to 25 years to life in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, the defendant and a female acquaintance were arguing outside his Elmhurst residence at approximately 5:00 a.m. on July 5, 2007, when Pablo Collaguazo, 23, and a friend walked by on their way to work and the friend recognized the woman from the gym he frequented. As the two men spoke with the defendant, their conversation escalated into a physical altercation and the defendant fled into his residence. A short while later, it is alleged that the defendant came back outside armed with a kitchen knife and that, seeing the knife, the two men ran off in opposite directions. As Collaguazo allegedly ran by the defendant, Camargo fatally stabbed him once in the chest. Thereafter, the defendant allegedly washed the knife and placed it back in his kitchen drawer with the other knives.

The defendant was arrested later that day at the woman's apartment where he had gone after going to the Colombian Embassy to renew his passport.

The investigation was conducted by detectives assigned to the NYPD's 110th Precinct's Detective Squad.

Assistant District Attorney Teri Ann Puliafico, of the District Attorney's Homicide Investigations Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Peter T. Reese, Bureau Chief, Peter J. McCormack III, Deputy Bureau Chief, and Richard B. Schaeffer, Senior Trial Attorney, 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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