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News Advisory

Hemant K. Megnath, 29, of 914 Hart Street in Brooklyn, was arraigned today before Queens Criminal Court Judge Steven W. Paynter on a criminal complaint charging him with first- and second-degree murder and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon. If convicted, he faces up to life without parole in prison.

According to the complaint, as 20-year-old Natasha Ramen left for work at approximately 8:20 a.m. on March 15, 2007, the defendant came up behind her, steps from her 186th Street house, and slit her neck and throat with a knife. The victim was taken to a local Queens hospital where she died later that day. The defendant, who was about to stand trial in Brooklyn for raping Ms. Ramen, allegedly killed her to prevent her from testifying.

The defendant was ordered held without bail. The case was adjourned to April 4, 2007.

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The defendant is being represented by Brian O'Connor (718-717-6808).