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**D.A. BROWN: THREE MEN ARRAIGNED ON GANG ASSAULT AND MURDER CHARGES  
IN STABBING AND SHOOTING DEATH OF TEENAGER AT ASTORIA TRAIN STATION**

*Defendants Each Face Up to 25 Years to Life in Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that two Bronx residents and a homeless man have been charged in the early morning assault and murder of a 19-year-old restaurant worker at the “N” train’s Broadway station in Astoria, Queens, on Labor Day.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendants are accused of acting with wolf pack mentality in attacking and killing a hardworking teenage immigrant as he stood on the crowded elevated platform of a Queens subway station in the dark pre-dawn hours of a holiday ironically intended to honor the workers of our country. Their alleged actions were violent and ruthless and the charges against them will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”

The District Attorney identified the defendants as Jose Alvarez, 20, of 541 East 138<sup>th</sup> Street, Nicolas S. Reyes, 20, of 1105 Stratford Avenue, both of the Bronx, and Emanuel Ramirez-Hernandez, 23, undomiciled. They were arraigned on Saturday, September 8, 2007, before Queens Criminal Court Judge Barry Kron on a criminal complaint charging each of them with second-degree murder, first-degree gang assault, and second- and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon. The defendants, who face up to 25 years to life if convicted, were ordered held without bail and to return to court on September 21, 2007.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the three defendants confronted Jose N. Sierra, 19, of the Bronx, as he stood on the southbound platform of the N train station at 31<sup>st</sup> Street and Broadway at approximately 1:07 a.m. on Monday, September 3, 2007, and beat and stabbed him and shot him in the head before fleeing. Sierra, who worked at a nearby restaurant, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Assistant District Attorney Kristen Frasier, of the District Attorney’s Homicide Investigations Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Peter T. Reese, Bureau Chief, and Peter J. McCormack, Deputy Chief, and Richard B. Schaeffer, Supervisor, 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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