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QUEENS TEENAGER ARRAIGNED IN FATAL SHOOTING OF 13-YEAR-OLD BOY
Second Teen Wounded; Defendant Faces 25 Years to Life in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 16-year-old Queens resident has been arraigned on murder and other charges in the shooting death of a 13-year-old boy and the wounding of another man, both of whom were struck by stray bullets that the defendant fired during an altercation with three other individuals.

District Attorney Brown said, "This case is another example of the mindless gun-related violence that too often takes innocent lives and recklessly endangers public safety. It is alleged that the 16-year-old defendant had an altercation with some other teenagers and fired a handgun, cutting short the life of an innocent 13-year-old child and injuring a second teenager."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Nnonso Ekwegbalu, 16, of 141-25 183rd Street in Springfield Gardens, Queens. The defendant is charged with second-degree murder, second-degree assault, second-degree criminal possession of a weapon and tampering with physical evidence. He was arraigned on the charges today before Queens Criminal Court Judge Toko Serita and ordered held without bail. The defendant faces up to 25 years to life in prison, if convicted. He was ordered to return to court on October 19, 2009.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the defendant discharged his firearm on October 2, 2009 at approximately 3:15 p.m., in front of 208-15 Linden Boulevard in Queens, in the direction of three persons known to the Queens District Attorney's office with whom he had just had a physical altercation, and who were fleeing, unarmed. One of the defendant's bullets struck 13-year-old Kevin Miller in the head, killing him. Another bullet struck another person, known to the Queens District Attorney's office, in the left thigh. Neither Miller nor the second shooting victim was involved in the altercation.

District Attorney Brown said that the defendant was arrested on Saturday, October 3, 2009, by police officers assigned to the New York City Police Department's 105th Precinct detective squad.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Naomi K. Schneidmill, of the District Attorney's Homicide Investigations Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Peter T. Reese, Bureau Chief, and Peter J. McCormack III, 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.

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