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GEORGIA MAN SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON
FOR DECADE-OLD MURDER OF HIS COUSIN

Defendant Fled Jurisdiction Following Slaying In "Love Triangle"

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 50-year-old former Georgia resident has been sentenced to up to life in prison for the August 14, 1999, shooting death of his first cousin in broad daylight on a street in Richmond Hill. The defendant was arrested in Georgia in 2006 after seven years on the run.

District Attorney Brown said, "The murder for which the defendant will likely spend the rest of his life behind bars was both senseless and cold-blooded. He laid in wait for his cousin to exit his house before gunning him down in broad daylight. Under the circumstances, the lengthy state prison sentence imposed today is more than warranted."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Tahir Naqvi, 50, of Columbus, Georgia. He was convicted in June of second-degree murder and second- and third-degree criminal possession of a weapon before Supreme Court Justice Kenneth C. Holder who imposed today's indeterminate sentence of 25 years to life in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, the victim, Irfan Naqvi, 29, was having an affair with the wife of the defendant. The defendant found out about the affair and stalked the victim, waiting for him outside of his Metropolitan Avenue home in Richmond Hill on August 14, 1999, at about 3:45 p.m. Around that time the victim left his home and was on his way to a family wedding when he was accosted by the defendant, who fired two shots at him. As the victim then crawled on the ground, the defendant fired another shot. Finally, the defendant dragged the victim onto the sidewalk, straddled his body, and then shot him twice, one shot into his shoulder and the other shot fatally into his brain. The entire incident was witnessed by a 14-year-old girl who was on her way to church. She later picked the defendant out of a photo array and testified against him at trial.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Patrick L. O'Connor, of the District Attorney's Homicide Trials Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Brad Leventhal, Bureau Chief and Jack Warsawsky, 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.

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