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**ST. JOHN'S STUDENT CHARGED WITH THREATENING  
TO "COMMIT VIRGINIA TECH ATTACK" ON CAMPUS**  
*Terrorist Threats Allegedly Posted On Facebook Page*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that an 18-year-old St. John's University student has been charged with making a terroristic threat after posting several messages on his Facebook page threatening to kill people on campus by committing a "Virginia Tech attack," allegedly referring to the 2007 campus shooting in which a student shot and killed 32 people and wounded many others.

District Attorney Brown said, "If a defendant posts a threat on a social networking site it will be treated seriously and investigated thoroughly. Students should feel that they are in a safe environment when they attend school. Attempts to disturb or threaten the peaceful campus atmosphere will not be tolerated."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Radames Santiago, 18, of 502 West 170<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan. The defendant, who is charged with one count of making a terroristic threat, was arraigned last night before Queens Criminal Court Judge Toko Serita. She ordered him held on \$6,000 bond or \$2,000 cash bail, and to return to court on October 1, 2009. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the defendant posted messages on Facebook, a social networking site, on September 14 and 15<sup>th</sup>, indicating that he was going "crazy" and that "people should watch as he does some Virginia Tech [stuff]." He also allegedly posted a message stating that he "knows he will do it. You know I will, and to make sure that people watch CNN or something every day after" he kills everyone. Users of the site reported the threats to St. John's University officials, who contacted police.

The defendant allegedly told detectives that he was drunk and depressed "about everything" at the time he posted the comments.

Detectives from the New York City Police Department's 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct Detective Squad investigated the case.

Assistant District Attorney Robert D. Alexander, Chief of the District Attorney's Computer Crimes Unit, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Anthony M. Communiello, Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Special Proceedings Bureau, and Oscar W. Ruiz, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

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](http://www.queensda.org).**