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SIX PURPORTED LATIN KINGS MEMBERS INDICTED
FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER AND GANG ASSAULT
Defendants Face Up To 25 Years In Prison If Convicted

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Queens County grand jury has charged six reputed members of the violent Latin Kings street gang with the attempted murder and gang assault of a 24-year-old man in Jackson Heights, Queens, last October.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendants are accused of viciously attacking and seriously injuring a young man apparently for no other reason than he was not a member of the Latin Kings gang. Gang violence will not be tolerated in Queens County. The defendants’ poor choice in pursuing gang membership and the violence that are a part of that lifestyle have led them to be charged with serious felonies that carry the possibility of lengthy prison sentences.”

The six defendants – Michael (“Menace”) Aragundi, Jonathan (“Butters”) Duy, Jordan (“JCap”) Leon, Wilson (“Suave”) Matute, Luis (“Frosty”) Mayancela, and Luis (“Scar”) Minchala – were arraigned yesterday before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Stephanie Zaro on a seven-count indictment charging each of them with one count of second-degree attempted murder, one count of first-degree gang assault, one count of first-degree assault, two counts of first-degree robbery, one count of second-degree robbery and one count of second-degree assault. The defendants, who each face up to 25 years in prison if convicted, were ordered to return to court on July 10, 2017. **(See addendum for additional information on each defendant.)**

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the 24-year-old victim was standing outside of the El Paisa bar, located at 87-05 Northern Boulevard in Jackson Heights during the early morning hours of October 29, 2016, when a large group of men, including the six defendants, approached him. Seven of the men – including defendants Aragundi, Duy, Leon, Matute and Mayancela – allegedly began punching and stabbing the victim. It is alleged that although the defendant Minchala did not participate in the assault, he later told police that he was present at the scene to oversee the assault and that he directed other gang members to assault the victim.

Additionally, it is alleged that a cane that the victim was holding at the time of the assault was snatched from him and used in the assault. Following the assault, all the assailants allegedly fled the scene, leaving the victim bleeding in front of the bar. He was transported to a local Queens hospital, where he was treated for eleven stab wounds and lacerations, including a laceration to the head and two stab wounds to the neck. The victim additionally suffered possible nerve damage to his left arm, which has left him with numbness in his arm and hand.

(MORE)

The investigation was conducted by Detective Michael Ferrante, of the New York City Police Department's 115th Precinct Detective Squad, with the assistance of Detective Mark Santiago, of the NYPD's Queens Gang Squad.

Assistant District Attorney Gabriel Mendoza, of the District Attorney's Gang Violence and Hates Crimes Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Mariela Palomino Herring, Bureau Chief, Michelle E. Goldstein, Deputy Bureau Chief, and Michael E. Brovner, Section Chief of Violent Criminal Enterprises, and under the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Laura M. Henigman.

It should be noted that an indictment is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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Note to Editors: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org

ADDENDUM

Michael Aragundi, 19, of Queens, was ordered held on \$25,000 bond/\$15,000 cash bail.

Jonathan Duy, 23, of Queens, was ordered held on \$100,000 bond/\$75,000 cash bail.

Jordan Leon, 17, of Queens, was ordered held on \$250,000 bond/\$150,000 cash bail.

Wilson Matute, 20, of Queens, was ordered held on \$20,000 bond/\$20,000 cash bail.

Luis Mayancela, 21, of Queens, was ordered held on \$75,000 bond/\$75,000 cash bail.

Luis Minchala, 26, address unknown, was ordered held on \$100,000 bond/\$75,000 cash bail.

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