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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Two Men Sentenced To 25 Years To Life In Prison For Stabbing Death  
Of Stranger They Mistakenly Thought Was Gang Rival**

*Innocent Victim, 20, Was Stabbed To Death With Broken Bottle and Knife*

Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson today announced that two men who were convicted last month for the stabbing death of a young man who they thought was a member of a rival gang have each been sentenced to 25 years to life in prison after being convicted of second-degree murder at a trial in which they each had separate juries.

District Attorney Thompson said, “The victim in this case had his whole life ahead of him when he was senselessly cut down by these two defendants. Now they must pay the price for their vicious actions.”

The District Attorney identified the defendants as Gilberto Serrano, 25, of 98-05 Northern Boulevard, in Queens, and Miguel Juarez, 26, of 53-13 New Utrecht Avenue in Brooklyn. Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Vincent Del Giudice, who presided over the trial, today sentenced Serrano to 25 years to life in prison. Justice Del Giudice earlier this month sentenced Juarez to 25 years to life in prison. Both men were convicted at trial of second-degree murder.

District Attorney Thompson said that the murder stemmed from an incident on July 14, 2012, when the victim, Abel Xochimitl, 20, left La Parranda bar located at 2366 86<sup>th</sup> Street in Bensonhurst.

District Attorney Thompson said that, according to trial testimony, the defendants confronted Xochimitl near the corner of Bay 35<sup>th</sup> Street and 86<sup>th</sup> Street and asked him, “Que barrio?” which in English means, “What neighborhood?” but is also gang parlance for: “What gang do you belong to?”

The District Attorney said that, according to trial testimony, the defendants told police that Xochimitl responded, "Panchito. Brighton Beach." They then began to attack him with a broken bottle and a knife, stabbing his face, neck, chest and back. The victim's jugular vein and right lung were perforated and he bled to death.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Andy Palacio of the District Attorney's Homicide Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Yaniris Urraca of the Orange Trial Zone, under the supervision of Kenneth M. Taub, Homicide Bureau Chief.