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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Canarsie Man Sentenced To 25 Years To Life
In Prison For Stabbing Death Of His Girlfriend**

Defendant Attacked and Killed Woman In Front Of Their Teen Son

Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson today announced that a 54-year-old Brooklyn man has been sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for killing his long-term girlfriend – who was the mother of his then 13-year-old son – after breaking into her home, chasing her and their son into the basement with a knife, and then stabbing her to death in front of their son and the tenant of the basement apartment.

District Attorney Thompson said, “This defendant’s horrific actions caused his wife to run in terror before he caught her and ended her life. This senseless act of violence was made worse because their young son witnessed it – leaving him traumatized. He lost his mother to violence, and he has now lost his father as well.”

District Attorney Thompson identified the defendant as Eustacio Roberts, 54, of 723 East 81st Street in Canarsie. The defendant was today sentenced by Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Deborah A. Dowling to the maximum term of 25 years to life in prison. He was convicted of second-degree murder on August 8, 2014, following a jury trial.

The District Attorney said that, according to trial testimony, on April 28, 2010, the defendant, holding a knife, pursued his girlfriend, Maritza Jolliffe, 53, inside of her Canarsie home. Their 13 year-old son was present during the attack and attempted to help his mother by hiding in the basement with her and then by holding the basement door closed as she hid in a basement bedroom for safety. Unfortunately, the defendant kicked down the door to the basement, menaced his son with the knife, kicked down the door to the bedroom where the victim was hiding and then stabbed her multiple times in the chest and back in front of their son.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Joshua Charlton of the District Attorney’s Domestic Violence Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Michelle Kaminsky, Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Assistant District Attorney Wanda Lucibello, Chief of the District Attorney’s Special Victims Division.