



Kenneth P. Thompson
District Attorney
Kings County

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COMMUNITY PARTNER IN JUSTICE NOTIFICATION

Brooklyn Man Sentenced in Absentia to 40 Years for Shooting Five Members of a Family with Whom he had an Ongoing Dispute

Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson today announced that Curtis Peterson, 25, of Greene Avenue in Bushwick, was sentenced to 40 years in prison for shooting the family of a young woman with whom he had an ongoing dispute, wounding five of them. Last month, shortly before being convicted of assault charges, the defendant absconded while free on \$100,000 bail.

In the afternoon on July 20, 2013, the defendant and a group of young men approached the victims and the defendant opened fire, striking Ronaldo Pizarro, 45, in the stomach, along with his wife Melody Amill, 37, in the knee, and his son, Ronaldo Jr., 22, in the leg. Pizarro's aunt, Wanda Espinoza, 45, was hit in the stomach and another relative, Manuel Rivera, 62, was hit in the ankle.

Two days before the shooting, the defendant showed up at the McDonald's where Pizarro's daughter worked and threw a milkshake at her -- part of an ongoing dispute between the two. At the urging of her parents, Pizarro's daughter reported the harassment to the police, leading Peterson to retaliate, confronting and shooting her family members.

District Attorney Thompson said, "This defendant brazenly shot and injured five people, all of whom are lucky to be alive. When it became clear, near the end of trial, that the evidence against him was overwhelming he absconded. Let's be clear, however, that he will be found and will serve many years in prison."

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