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**MAN INDICTED ON FIRST-DEGREE MURDER CHARGES IN RAPE AND
STRANGULATION OF TEEN IN 2000**
Defendant Extradited From Florida After DNA Matched To Him This Year

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a man has been indicted for first-degree Murder in the rape and strangulation of a young Bronx woman 17 years ago.

District Attorney Clark said, “The defendant allegedly raped and then strangled the victim with a telephone cord, leaving her to be found dead by her family. This tragic case is a reminder that “cold” cases are not forgotten and we will pursue justice no matter how long it takes. I hope this victim’s family can get a measure of closure.”

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Christopher Gonzalez, 36, of Naples, Florida, was indicted on two counts of first-degree Murder and three counts of second-degree Murder. He was arraigned today before Bronx Supreme Court Justice George Villegas. He was remanded and is due back in court on March 12, 2018. If convicted of the top charges, he faces up to life in prison without parole.

According to the investigation, on December 2, 2000, inside an apartment building on East 180th Street, the defendant allegedly raped and then strangled Dora Del Valle, 19, with a telephone cord. The teen, who was house-sitting for her hospitalized uncle, was later found dead by family members. A fingerprint and significant DNA evidence collected at the scene was matched to the defendant this year. The defendant was extradited from Florida on December 8, 2017.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Newton Mendys of the Homicide Bureau under the supervision of Christine Scaccia, Chief of the Homicide Bureau and the overall supervision of Nicole Keary, Deputy Chief of the Trial Division.

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District Attorney Clark thanked Ana Pimentel of the Bronx DA's Crime Victims Assistance Unit, Detectives Malcolm Reiman and Matt McCrosson of Bronx Homicide, Investigator Eugene Donnelly and the New York State Police Major Crimes Unit, and Detective Kevin O'Neill and the Collier County (Florida) Sheriff's Office.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.