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**For Immediate Release**  
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**YONKERS MAN SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR  
EXECUTION-STYLE SHOOTING  
Defendant Found Guilty of Second-Degree Murder**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced a Yonkers man has been sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for the fatal shooting of a 23-year-old Bronx man.

District Attorney Clark said, "The defendant knew the victim and shot him execution-style over a previous dispute, and will now spend many years in prison. This act of senseless gun violence has destroyed the lives of two young men."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Michael Canaj, 25, of 6 Ramsen Road, Yonkers, N.Y., was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Martin Marcus on March 22, 2019. The jury found the defendant guilty of second-degree Murder on January 18, 2019

According to the investigation, shortly after midnight on December 31, 2012 at 2324 Boston Road, the defendant shot Erion Mecani, 23, multiple times, causing his death. The defendant and the victim had a disagreement two years prior to the shooting, when the defendant stole the victim's car and wrecked it while driving it. The defendant had promised to pay the victim for the damages, but instead shot him. Mecani was found dead with two gunshot wounds in the head in his father's car about an hour after the incident.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Morgan Dolan of the Homicide Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Megan West of the Narcotics & Gangs Investigation Bureau, under the supervision of Christine Scaccia, Chief of the Homicide Bureau, and the overall supervision of James Brennan, Deputy Chief of the Trial Division, and Theresa Gottlieb, Chief of the Trial Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked to Detective Steven Smith of Bronx Homicide and United States Marshals Service Analyst John Heintz for their assistance in the case.

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