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NEW JERSEY MAN INDICTED FOR MURDER IN RANDOM STABBING OF BRONX MAN IN UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a New Jersey man has been indicted on Murder and Manslaughter in the death of a 20-year-old Bronx man.

District Attorney Clark said, "During an unprovoked attack, the defendant stabbed the victim in the chest, leaving him brain dead. The victim's family made the tortuous decision to remove this 20-year-old man from life support. We will pursue justice for the heartbroken family and friends of the victim."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Edwin Portes, 19, of Elizabeth, N.J., was arraigned today on second-degree Murder and first-degree Manslaughter before Bronx Supreme Court Justice George Villegas. The defendant was remanded and is due back in court on April 21, 2020.

According to the investigation, at approximately 2:30 a.m. on December 21, 2019 the victim, Giovanni Pimentel, 20, was at 2170 University Avenue hanging out with friends. The defendant allegedly approached with a knife and lunged at the victim, stabbing him once in the chest. The defendant also lunged at another individual but missed. Pimentel was declared brain dead on December 22, 2020 at St. Barnabas Hospital and was taken off life support six days later. The defendant fled to New Jersey and was arrested on January 10, 2020.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Edward Purce of the Homicide Bureau under the supervision of Christine Scaccia, Chief of the Homicide Bureau, and under the overall supervision of James Brennan, Deputy Chief of the Trial Division, and Theresa Gottlieb, Chief of the Trial Division. District Attorney Clark thanked NYPD Detectives Rafael Guzman and William Seligson of the 46th Precinct Squad, and Police Officer Jacqueline Saturnino of the Elizabeth, N.J. Police Department for their assistance in the case.

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

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