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**BRONX MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR STABBING AND BURNING
18-YEAR-OLD TO DEATH**
Defendant Was Convicted of First-Degree Murder After Jury Trial;
Victim Killed Over Relationship with Defendant's Sister

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man who stabbed and burned alive an 18-year-old man has been sentenced to life in prison after being convicted of first-degree Murder after a three-week jury trial.

District Attorney Clark said, "Winston Ortiz was killed in a torturous manner; stabbed and then set afire while he was still alive, because the defendant was upset that his sister and Winston had had a relationship. He will be remembered as a caring, family oriented young man and it's unfathomable to think he was killed in such a horrific way."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Adones Betances, 26, last of 1100 University Avenue, was sentenced today to life in prison without parole by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Jeanette Rodriguez-Morick. A jury convicted Betances on February 9, 2024, of first-degree Murder after a three-week jury trial.

According to the investigation, on August 12, 2020, at approximately 3:00 p.m. inside the 5th floor hallway of 1045 Woodycrest Avenue, the defendant approached the victim, Winston Ortiz, 18, and started an argument because he was upset over his sister's relationship with the victim. Betances stabbed Ortiz multiple times in the chest and back before dousing the victim in lighter fluid, setting him ablaze. Residents heard Winton's screams from the hallway and found him on fire. During the trial, body worn camera footage from a responding officer was played, showing Winston in his final moments, naming his attacker and praying before he died.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Homicide Council George Suminski of the Homicide Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Neelam Chhikara of the Special Investigations Bureau, under the supervision of Christine Scaccia, Chief of the Homicide Bureau, and under the overall



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supervision of James Brennan, Deputy Chief of the Trial Division, and Theresa Gottlieb, Chief of the Trial Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked Trial Preparation Supervisor Kimberly Cameron, and Trial Preparation Assistants Jonathan Romero, Johnathan Campa, Yoisy Jimenez, and Jazmine Pagoada, all of the Homicide Bureau, along with Homicide Advocates Ana Pimentel, Amelis Santana and Laura Ramirez; Selena Ley, Director of the Digital Forensic Laboratory, Peter Kennedy, Chief of the Technical Investigations Bureau, Video Unit Supervisor Joao D'Alessandro and Video Technician Stalin Crespo of the BXDA Video Unit, and former Digital Forensics Examiner Tina Razack of the Digital Forensics Lab for their work on the case.

District Attorney Clark also thanked NYPD Detective Arelis Dubose of the Bronx Homicide Task Force, and NYPD Detective Corey Simpson, retired NYPD Detective Claudio Velez, and NYPD Sergeants Vanessa Solis and Danielle Martinez, all of the 44th Precinct, for their work in the investigation.