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**STATEMENT FROM BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY DARCEL D. CLARK
ON CONVICTION OF JOSEPH MARTINEZ (AKA JUPITER JOE)
FOR 1999 MURDER OF MINERLIZ SORIANO**

First Indictment in New York City That Used Familial DNA To Solve Case

Today, a Bronx jury returned a guilty verdict on two counts of second-degree Murder against Joseph Martinez AKA Jupiter Joe, in the killing of 13-year-old Minerliz Soriano, bringing justice to her family after 26 years.

The defendant sexually abused Minerliz and compressed her neck, causing her death. He took her body in a garbage bag and left it in a dumpster in Co-op City, where she was found on February 28, 1999.

Bronx detectives and my ADAs never gave up in the quest to hold accountable the killer of this beautiful little girl. It was their relentless dedication and compassion, coupled with advanced technology in DNA, that led to the arrest and conviction.

I hope this verdict brings some solace to Minerliz's family.

The defendant will be sentenced on January 8, 2026, on intentional murder and felony murder.