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**For Immediate Release**  
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**BRONX MAN SENTENCED TO 19 YEARS IN PRISON FOR FATALLY SHOOTING COLLEGE STUDENT IN CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY**  
**Defendant Was a Teenager When He Committed 2021 Killing**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man has been sentenced to 19 years in prison and five years post-release supervision for fatally shooting a 21-year-old college student.

District Attorney Clark said, “The defendant took the life of a promising young man, devastating the family. The defendant was only 17 years old when he senselessly killed someone, and now he will be in prison for many years. He picked up a gun and threw his own life away.”

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Steven Mendez, 20, of Grand Avenue, was sentenced today by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Gayle Roberts to 19 years in prison and five years post release supervision. The defendant pleaded guilty on March 5, 2024, to first-degree Manslaughter.

According to the investigation, at approximately 8:50 pm on October 24, 2021, Mendez, acting in concert with five others, walked for several blocks looking for someone when they spotted Saikou Koma, 21, and his friend on Ryer Avenue in Fordham Heights. Mendez and one of his accomplices fired multiple shots. Koma was struck and killed. There was no connection between him and the defendant.

The case was prosecuted by Burim Namani, Deputy Chief 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 Sasha Brugal of the Bronx Homicide Squad and Richard Garcia of the 46<sup>th</sup> Precinct for their work on the investigation.