

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



**THOMAS J. SPOTA  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

March 22, 2012

## **Jury selection starts for alleged heroin dealer charged with murder**

Jury selection is underway for the homicide trial of alleged heroin dealer Gilberto "Macho" Rivera in Suffolk County court in Riverhead.

Rivera, 27, is charged with murder in the second degree, robbery, drug and weapons possession charges and one count of conspiracy to distribute narcotics in a 14-count indictment, Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said.

Rivera, of Oakdale, allegedly lured the homicide victim, Luis Maldonado, 27 to a secluded area off the Long Island Expressway on Aug. 15, 2008 where he shot him in the head and stomach and set fire to Maldonado's SUV by igniting a propane tank in the SUV.

DA Spota said Rivera has been incarcerated in the county jail since March of 2009 when he was arrested with 12 codefendants for trafficking large amounts of heroin from Elmhurst, Queens to western Suffolk County.

Rivera was arrested after completing a drug transaction in the parking lot of the Islandia Marriott Hotel. "Inside the car, detectives recovered \$25,000 in cash and 5,000 packets of heroin packaged for street sales," District Attorney Spota said. Investigators estimate Rivera accepted for delivery 10,000 "decks" or approximately two kilos of heroin every ten days.

During the course of the investigation, district attorney squad detectives and state police investigators seized approximately 3 kilos of heroin, 350 grams of cocaine, large quantities of oxycodone pills and more than 50 guns including 13 handguns.

Also seized at the Queens location were packaging materials, scales, grinders and stamps that the heroin ring used to name their product with labels like "Ace of Spades", "Underdog" and "Stop Snitching", Spota said.



### **SCDA COMMUNICATIONS**

[Robert.Clifford@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:Robert.Clifford@suffolkcountyny.gov)

A criminal charge is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.