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Father of Ola Salem Arraigned on Indictment Charging Him in Daughter's Murder

Defendant Kabary Salem was removed from Kuwait and charged following a joint investigation by the Staten Island DA's Office, NYPD, NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force, and U.S. Marshals Service

Staten Island, N.Y. — Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that defendant Kabary Salem has been arraigned on an indictment charging him with the murder of his daughter, Ola Salem.

The defendant was arraigned virtually on Tuesday before Judge Marina Cora Mundy in Staten Island Supreme Court, St. George, on a seven-count indictment charging him with Murder in the Second Degree, Manslaughter in the First Degree, Concealment Of A Human Corpse, Strangulation in the First Degree, and related offenses. The judge remanded the defendant and set the next court date for February 5, 2021.

“This indictment is the culmination of an extensive, multi-agency investigation led by my office for over the past year into the murder of Ola Salem. Throughout the course of this tragic case, we had never lost hope that the alleged killer would be arrested and charged. We will continue to work tirelessly to hold this defendant accountable for the brutal act of violence he has been accused of committing against his own daughter,” said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon. “At this time, I would like to commend ADAs Lisa Davis and Joshua Freeman for their diligent work investigating this matter, presenting the evidence to the Grand Jury, and working with our partners to ensure that the defendant was returned to Staten Island where he will face justice. We are also extremely grateful to the NYPD, NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force, and U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Department of State, for their assistance and the integral role each played in apprehending the defendant.”

According to the indictment and documents filed in court, sometime late in the evening of October 23, 2019, to early in the morning of October 24, 2019, the defendant strangled Ola Salem to death. He then drove to Staten Island, dragged her body into Bloomingdale Park, covered her with branches and leaves and left her there. He then returned to Pennsylvania. He eventually fled the country and did not return to the United States again. Following a joint investigation by the Staten Island DA's office, the NYPD, the NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force, the U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Department of State, the defendant's whereabouts were eventually tracked to Kuwait, where members of the NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force and the U.S. Marshals Service traveled to apprehend the defendant. Last Friday, he was brought back to New York where he was arrested and charged.

The case is being prosecuted by ADAs Lisa Davis and Joshua Freeman.

The charges contained in the attached indictment are merely allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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