



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
RICHMOND COUNTY

MICHAEL E. MCMAHON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

130 STUYVESANT PLACE
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10301

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Contact: Ryan Lavis (718) 556-7150

Ryan.Lavis@rcda.nyc.gov

Staten Island Man Sentenced to 25 Years to Life in Prison for Fatally Shooting His Friend Outside Bar

****Defendant Francis Batama killed Semori Wilson on May 10, 2018 outside a bar in Stapleton****

Staten Island, N.Y. — Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that a Staten Island man has been sentenced to the maximum 25 years to life in prison for fatally shooting his friend outside a bar in Stapleton, Staten Island.

“This defendant fatally shot his friend in cold blood on a public street outside a bar in Stapleton. We must never tolerate gun violence in our communities and my office will continue to work tirelessly to hold those who commit these vicious acts accountable,” **said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon.** “I would like to commend ADAs Mark Palladino and Kate Malloy for their commitment to prosecuting this case and delivering justice for the victim and his loved ones, and I am grateful to the jury for their service on behalf of the people of Staten Island. We will continue to fight every day against gun violence and prevent this type of tragedy from happening in our communities.”

Defendant Francis Batama, 28, was sentenced today in Staten Island Supreme Court, St. George, by Justice William E. Garnett to the maximum 25 years to life in prison. The defendant was previously found guilty at trial of Murder in the Second Degree.

According to the indictment and court documents, on May 10, 2018, just before midnight, outside a bar at 543 Bay Street in Stapleton, the defendant approached Semori Wilson, 25, from behind and shot him three times, killing him.

Witness testimony identifying the defendant as the shooter and video surveillance, including video of the defendant fleeing through the Stapleton train station minutes after the victim was fatally shot nearby on Bay Street, was presented as evidence at trial.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Mark Palladino and Kate Malloy.

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