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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Tuesday, December 2, 2014**

**BROOKLYN MAN CONVICTED OF  
MURDERING & DUMPING THE BODY OF 14-YEAR-OLD GIRL**

*Defendant Immediately Returned To Maine After Disposing Her Body In Gerritsen Beach*

Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson today announced the conviction of a Brooklyn man who suffocated a 14-year-old girl to death and attempted to burn her body because he believed she was pregnant.

District Attorney Thompson said, “The defendant brutally took the life of a 14 year-old girl all because he believed that she was pregnant. We will now seek the maximum at sentencing to ensure that we get justice for the victim.”

The District Attorney said that, the defendant, Christian Ferdinand, 22 of Limestone, Maine, was convicted of second-degree murder and tampering with physical evidence following a jury trial before Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Neil Firetog. The defendant is expected to be sentenced on January 7, 2015 and faces 25 years to life in prison.

According to trial testimony, on the morning of January 4, 2013, the defendant and the victim, Shaniesha Forbes, who he had met on Facebook, had an argument over whether to terminate an alleged pregnancy. The defendant was angered that the victim refused to have an abortion.

The defendant demanded she “kill it” and the victim refused. The defendant then placed a pillow over her face until the victim stopped moving. He then removed her body to an area where it was ultimately found; in a beach area on the southern end of Gerristen Avenue where he attempted to burn her body.

The Medical Examiner confirmed the victim was not pregnant.

According to court documents, the defendant fled to Maine where he was employed through Job Corp. and police found her remains on January 6, 2013.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Trial Attorney Robert Walsh, Homicide Bureau under the supervision of Deputy District Attorney Kenneth Taub, Chief of Homicide Bureau.

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