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(Department of Correction)

LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE FOR ZARNOFF TAYLOR

His Stolen ATV Led to the Murder of One, Grave Wounding of Another

(Bronx, NY – September 3, 2015) – **ZARNOFF TAYLOR** cared about his tricked-out all-terrain vehicle more than life itself. And as it turned out, more than the lives of the two men whom he suspected had stolen it. Now, announces Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson, the 30-year-old TAYLOR will be spending the rest of his life with no possibility of parole for the murder of one of those men, and the attempted murder of the other.

After a two-week-long trial and just one day's deliberation, on April 21st a jury found ZARNOFF TAYLOR guilty of **Murder in the 1st Degree (Class A-1 Felony) and Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree (Class B Violent Felony)**. On August 31st, 2015, he was sentenced by Supreme Court Justice John Carter to life without parole for the murder, consecutive to another 25 years in prison for the attempted murder.

TAYLOR's ATV was his pride and joy, the Yamaha Banshee's tricked-out engine the envy of anyone who saw it. But when it went missing from the lot where he'd parked it, he and his buddies went looking. On April 16, 2010, ZARNOFF TAYLOR brought ten men in two vans to Soon Cycle on Ogden Avenue in the Mt. Eden section of the Bronx and found their suspects – JOHAN SANTIAGO (a/k/a JUAN QUINONES) and JONATHAN TORRES. TAYLOR kidnapped the two men at gunpoint, and drove them around for two hours, robbed them, beat them up and interrogated them, because he wanted to know if they stole his ATV.

ZARNOFF TAYLOR found proof in their cell phones when he saw a picture of one of the two riding his bike.

He shot JOHAN SANTIAGO at point-blank range, but he wasn't done with him. As SANTIAGO was bleeding out, ZARNOFF TAYLOR drove around, and tried to find out where his ATV was. They drove clear across the Bronx, ending up in an industrial area near Co-op City, where TAYLOR forced JONATHAN TORRES to carry the gravely wounded SANTIAGO from the van. And ZARNOFF TAYLOR shot TORRES a



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half dozen times, and pumped yet another six bullets into SANTIAGO. Somehow, SANTIAGO survived, with surgery replacing nearly all his blood volume. JONATHAN TORRES did not survive.

Ironically, ZARNOFF TAYLOR never recovered his stolen ATV.

One of the other men involved TAYLOR's crime, WADER MEJIA-ACOSTA, pled guilty in April to Attempted Robbery in the 1st Degree and was sentenced to five years behind bars. The other, ADONIS JIMENEZ, pled guilty to Attempted Robbery in the 2nd Degree and was sentenced to four years.

The case against ZARNOFF TAYLOR was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Alyssa Preston and Trial Counsel John Morabito of Trial Bureau 20/50.

Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson also wishes to credit the Bronx D.A. Crime Victims Assistance Unit, along with Detective Investigators' Chief Frank Chiara and Detective Investigator Willie Melendez, as well as the Berks County, Pennsylvania's District Attorney, and its Sheriff's Office for their cooperation in producing JOHAN SANTIAGO for trial. In addition, he also singled out New York County's Assistant District Attorney Jeannie Olivo for her cooperation.

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