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**For Immediate Release**

**November 27, 2017**

**MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR 1993 KILLING OF  
GIRLFRIEND IN FRONT OF THEIR BABY SON  
Defendant Fled to Jamaica; Brought to Justice 23 Years Later**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a man has been sentenced to 20 years to life in prison for the 1993 murder of his girlfriend in front of their two-year-old son.

District Attorney Clark said, “The defendant may have eluded justice for more than two decades but the prosecutors in my Office and dedicated NYPD detectives never forgot about this horrific case. The defendant will now spend many years in prison and I hope this brings a measure of closure to the victim’s family.”

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Michael Stewart, aka Kenneth Hall, 58, of Hartford, Conn. was sentenced today to 20 years to life in prison by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Lester Adler for second-degree Murder. He was convicted by a jury on October 19, 2017 after a three-week trial.

According to the investigation, on September 20, 1993, Stewart flew to the island of Jamaica and upon landing, called his girlfriend’s father informing him his daughter was dead. Sophia Blair, 22, was found the same day in her Creston Avenue apartment with a fatal gunshot wound to the head. The toddler son she shared with Stewart, Jamal Blair, was left unattended in his crib for over ten hours until police discovered Blair’s body. Stewart, whose fingerprints were found at the scene, was arrested in December 2016 after returning to the United States.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney David Birnbaum, Counsel to the Domestic Violence Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Paul Whelan of the Domestic Violence Bureau under the supervision of Amy Litwin, Counsel to the Special Victims Division and the overall supervision of Joseph Muroff, Chief of the Division. District Attorney Clark thanked Detectives Ronald Jimick and Joseph O’Neill, retired Detectives Joseph Hamilton and Christopher Baldassarri, and Connecticut State Trooper Michael Quagliaroli for their hard work.