

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

May 14, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Teodoro Rivera, Jr. Sentenced to 18 Years to Life for the Murder of Sayyos Rios

Rochester, NY- On Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 27-year-old Teodoro Rivera, Jr. was sentenced by Monroe County Court Judge Randall to 18 Years to Life in the New York State Department of Corrections for the murder of Sayyos Rios, concurrent to 15 years in the New York State Department of Corrections plus 5 years of post-release supervision for Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree. Teodoro Rivera, Jr. previously pled guilty to Murder in the 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree.

On July 11, 2023, Sayyos Rios was sitting on the porch of his house on North Union Street in the City of Rochester. Teodoro Rivera, Jr. was driving in a stolen car when he aimed to shoot a separate individual standing near Sayyos Rios' house. Instead of shooting the intended target, Teodoro Rivera, Jr. shot and killed Sayyos Rios.

After a thorough investigation by the Rochester Police Department, Teodoro Rivera, Jr. was arrested for the homicide and possession of an illegal firearm on September 16, 2023, on Phelps Avenue in the City of Rochester.

The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant District Attorney Anthony Freeman, of the Non-Fatal Shooting Task Force.

“The shooting death of Sayyos Rios was nothing but a senseless murder,” said Assistant District Attorney Anthony Freeman. “While I am pleased that Teodoro Rivera, Jr. admitted to shooting and killing Sayyos Rios, nothing can bring back the life he stole. I want to thank the Rochester Police Department for their investigation that led to the identification and subsequent apprehension of Teodoro Rivera, Jr. I want to thank the family of Mr. Rios, who have been present during these proceedings, for your touching words at sentencing and several victim impact letters.”

“The murder of Sayyos Rios was devastating to his friends and family,” said Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “Mr. Rios was a father and known as a friend to all. He did not deserve to be killed in the defendant's reckless and brazen gunfire. It is our hope that the loved ones of Sayyos Rios can find justice in today's life sentence. Based on the violent nature of Teodoro Rivera, Jr., our community is safer with him in the New York State Department of Corrections.”

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