

It's 'grudge' judge vs. slay lawyer

By WILLIAM J. GORTA

The trial of a teenager accused of murdering a WABC Radio newsman hasn't started, but the objections were flying at a hearing yesterday, with a defense lawyer accusing the judge of painting a target on his chest.

Defense lawyer Jeffrey Schwartz accused Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Neil Firetog of holding a grudge against him for having complained about the conduct of a judge in an earlier case.

Schwartz said Firetog went out of his way to threaten him — but not the prosecution — with contempt citations and fines in pre-trial hearings.

His client, John Katehis, 18, is charged with murder in the March 2009 stabbing death of 47-year-old George Weber in the newsman's Boerum Hill apartment.

Schwartz yesterday demanded that Firetog let another judge try the case because the judge "terrified the defendant to the point he feels he cannot get a fair trial."

The judge denied the motion.

A day earlier, Firetog twice warned Schwartz that his conduct could result in contempt — once for making what the judge said were bogus arguments and once for repeating a question after Firetog sustained an objection to the query.

Schwartz said the animosity between Firetog and him began in 2006 when Judge Cheryl Chambers replaced Schwartz as the defense lawyer for Darryl Littlejohn, who was later convicted in the slaying of Imette St. Guillen.

Schwartz said Firetog, then the chief administrative judge in Brooklyn, asked him not make a formal complaint.

Schwartz said he still made the complaint and Firetog has since "over-personalized" the conflict.

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Frenchwoman un

By TODD VENEZIA

Call her the anti-mask avenger.

A French woman has committed the world's first-known act of burqa rage after she attacked a Muslim woman and ripped off her veil in a store.

The 63-year-old retired schoolteacher is now facing three years in jail for the outburst, Britain's Daily Mail newspaper reported.

The woman, who has been identified only as Marlene in court papers, launched her attack at a furniture shop in a posh Paris suburb last February.

Marlene said she spotted the Muslim woman and immediately became outraged because she hates the full body- and face-covering garb and the discrimination against women that it symbolizes.

She admitted that at the sight of the burqa, she "lost control."

"I knew I would crack one day," said Marlene, who once taught in the Middle East.

"This whole burqa saga was really getting to me. To me, wearing a full veil is an attack on being a woman. As a woman, I felt attacked."

Marlene stormed up to the Muslim woman — identified only as Shaika, 26, — and, speaking in English, demanded that she remove the veil.

When the younger woman refused, Marlene decided to rip off the veil.

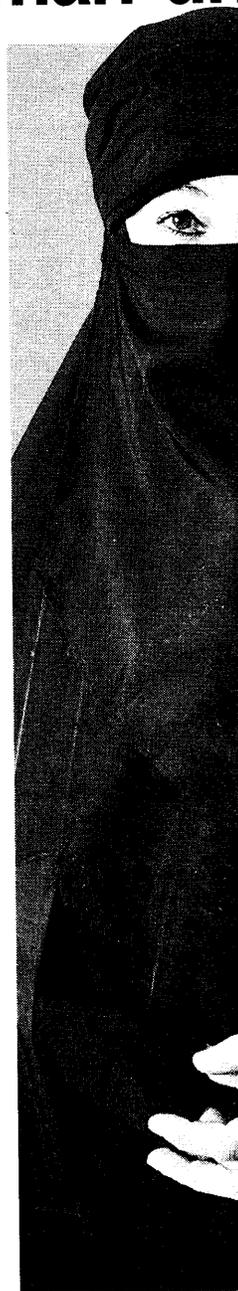
"I went over to her and tore off her veil," she said. "We came to blows. I was very upset."

As the pair struggled, Marlene allegedly slapped and hit the Muslim woman, and bit her hand. She eventually was able to rip Shaika's veil off.

She then shouted, "Now I can see your face!"

Security guards described the attack as "burqa rage."

A lawyer for Shaika, who hails from the United Arab Emirates, called it a "racist attack." The attorney, Lotfi Ouled Ben Hafsia, said Shaika was a three-year resident of Paris who now never wants to return because of the thrashing.



The February attack just months before France initiated a nationwide wearing face-covering such as burqas in public won final approval high court earlier this but is not supposed forced until six months now.

Although it was legal the veil at the time

Flooded Pak needs \$9.7B fix Y

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Reconstruction of Pakistan's infrastructure, farms and homes damaged by floods will cost \$9.7 billion, an Asian Develop-

worst disasters in Pakistan's history, said Juan Miranda, director general of the ADB's Central and West Asia department.

The ADB and the World

also left more than 10 million people homeless and affected an estimated 20 million people in all.

"We have \$9.7 billion in needs," Miranda said.

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