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DANBURY

Second youth guilty in Bardo slaying

Both teens take prosecutors' plea deal

By Dick Perrefort

DANBURY — The teenager who delivered the punch that led to Gabe Bardo's death last year pleaded guilty on Monday to manslaughter.


Lorenzo Santana, 17, accepted a deal from prosecutors that calls for a sentence of four to 15 years in prison. Bardo, who died just two weeks after his 18th birthday, was delivering \$30 worth of marijuana to an old friend last August when he was jumped by four youths on Abbott Street, authorities said.


Prosecutor Deborah Mabbett told the court on Monday that Santana was the one who delivered the fatal blow.

"He demanded marijuana from Gabe and struck him in the head," Mabbett said. "Gabe laid down on the ground and never regained consciousness. He was pronounced dead a day later."

Several of Bardo's relatives, including his parents and grandparents, were in the courtroom. Family members said they had hoped for a lengthier prison sentence.

"The great injustice to me has already been done," said the victim's grandfather, Brian Bardo. "Even if (Santana) gets life in prison, it


Santana


Bardo

will never bring Gabe back." Santana was originally charged with felony murder, which carries a minimum sentence of 25 years in prison.

Ronald Massagli, who authorities said also participated in the incident, pleaded guilty last month to manslaughter after accepting a deal that also calls for four to 15 years in prison.

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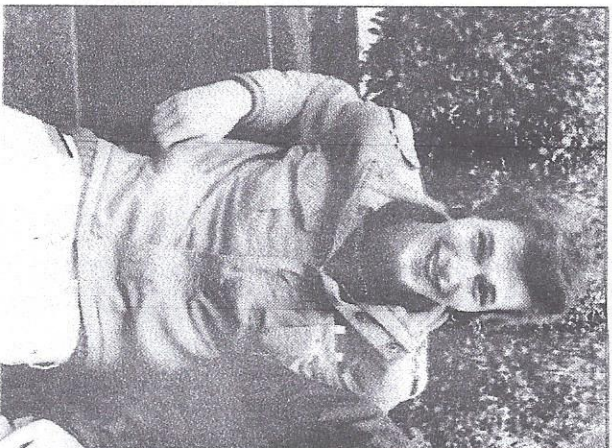
GUILTY

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Both Massagli and Santana will be able to argue for less prison time during formal sentencing hearings in June. Members of the victim's family will also have an opportunity to address the court.

Massagli's hearing is set for June 19th, and Santana's on June 22.

Two other teenagers arrested in connection to the slaying are being tried as juveniles. Information on their cases are not publicly available.



Gabe Bardo, who was murdered in Danbury on Aug. 5, 2017. Lorenzo Santana, 17, who delivered the punch that led to Bardo's death last year, pleaded guilty on Monday to manslaughter.