



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JUNE 1, 2009

CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
HERBERT HADAD, YUSILL SCRIBNER,  
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL, JANICE OH  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(914) 993-1900, (212) 637-2600

**FORMER WESTCHESTER COUNTY JAIL GUARD**  
**SENTENCED TO 72 MONTHS IN PRISON**

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that PAUL M. COTÉ, a former Corrections Officer with the Westchester County Department of Correction, was sentenced today by United States District Judge KENNETH M. KARAS in federal court in White Plains to 72 months in prison for using excessive force against a Westchester County Jail detainee, Zoran Teodorovic, by kicking, punching, and stomping Teodorovic's head into the cement floor. Teodorovic, who was 46 at the time of the incident in 2000, survived in a persistent vegetative state for 14 months and then died. Teodorovic, a Yugoslavian immigrant, had been in pretrial detention on a trespass charge because he was unable to pay his bail of \$250.

In imposing sentence, Judge KARAS found that the trial evidence supported a finding that COTÉ committed an aggravated assault on Teodorovic. Judge KARAS stated that the interests of Teodorovic had to be taken into consideration in imposing a just sentence, and that COTÉ had committed a very serious crime. The Court further imposed a two-year term of supervised release, to include COTÉ's participation in an anger management program.

Assistant United States Attorneys CYNTHIA K. DUNNE and DAVID J. KENNEDY are in charge of the prosecution.

09-165

# # #