

# NYC Bodega Worker Who Fought Off Ex-Convict in Self Defense Was Imprisoned at Rikers

written by GEG | July 11, 2022



Surveillance video shows that on July 1, 2022, shortly after 11 pm at a bodega grocery store in New York City, Austin Simon, 35, shoved store clerk Jose Alba, 61, against a wall of merchandise. The older man fought back and allegedly plunged a knife into Simon's neck, killing him in what appears to be an act of self defense. Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, a Democrat whose campaign funding is affiliated with George Soros and progressive crime policies, **charged** Mr. Alba with murder in the second degree and locked him up at Rikers' Island Prison on \$250,000 bail. After spending six days in Rikers', a prison notorious for violence, Alba's bail was reduced to \$50,000 and he was released. Alba is due back in court on July 20. Three NYC councilmembers have demanded that all charges against Alba be dropped by Bragg's office.

**UPDATE:** A new video was released that shows the girlfriend of career criminal Austin Simon's appeared to stab Jose Alba during the struggle, and he has wounds on his arms.

A group of New York City elected officials is demanding that Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg drop his case against bodega clerk Jose Alba in the **stabbing death of an ex-con** who attacked him behind the counter.

The bipartisan group of City Council members said the DA's controversial, progressive **approach to law enforcement** was "rewarding the guilty and punishing the innocent."

"The fact that you are even prosecuting Mr. Alba reveals how your perverse sense of justice not only protects violent criminals, but actively seeks to destroy the lives of crime victims," the lawmakers wrote Bragg on Thursday.

The group also called Bragg's handling of Alba's case "particularly jarring" in light of his generally soft-on-crime policies and the "countless cases where defendants were

allowed to plea down to lesser charges and then later go on to commit additional crimes.”

“Your approach is not a policy of restorative justice or de-incarceration,” according to the letter.

“You are simply rewarding the guilty and punishing the innocent.”

The letter was signed by Councilmembers Robert Holden (D-Queens), Joe Borelli (R-Staten Island), Inna Vernikov (R-Brooklyn), David Carr (R-Staten Island), Kalman Yeger (D-Brooklyn), Joann Ariola (R-Queens) and Vickie Paladino (R-Queens).

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