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- National
- Foreign
- Editorial Pages
- New York
- Business
- Sports
- Obituaries
- Weather
- Past Editorials
- It Shines for All
- RSS**

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- Arts & Letters
- Entertainment
- On The Town
- Out & About
- Food & Drink
- Photo Gallery
- Style
- Knickerbocker
- Calendar
- Real Estate
- Careers
- Crosswords
- Writer Profiles
- Travel

ARCHIVES
CLASSIFIEDS

- Careers
- Real Estate
- Automotive

August 2, 2005 Edition > Section: [New York](#)

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City Police Officers Come Under Fire In 2 Separate Incidents in the Last 2 Days

By LAUREN ELKIES - Staff Reporter of the Sun
August 2, 2005

Police officers were shot at in two separate and unrelated crimes over the last two days.

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In the most recent case, a man shot his ex-girlfriend's current boyfriend and held the woman hostage until the police arrived, law enforcement officials said. Yesterday at about 2 a.m., the suspect, Jermaine Barrett, 33, who resides in Manhattan, got into a fight with the woman's boyfriend on Washington Avenue between Lefferts Boulevard and Lincoln Road.

The dispute escalated, with the ex-boyfriend firing six rounds at the current boyfriend, striking him three times in the hip and one time in the buttocks, police said.

The suspect then allegedly attempted to shoot the woman, but found that his firearm was empty. He took out a 9-mm automatic firearm and started shooting with the second weapon, hitting the male victim in the left eye, police said. When police arrived at the scene, there was a standoff between investigators and the suspect, with Mr. Barrett holding the woman in front of him as a human shield. Mr. Barrett allegedly pointed the 9-mm pistol at her head and threatened to shoot. He pushed his ex-girlfriend toward the police officers and pointed the firearm at them, police said.

One police officer shot a single round at the suspect and another police officer fired two rounds, with two bullets striking Mr. Barrett, one in the right knee and another in his side. The suspect then turned his gun on himself, firing a round into his chest, police said.

Emergency Medical Service arrived at the scene and took the suspect to Kings County Hospital in serious but stable condition. The male victim, Shabazz Muhammad, 27, of 280

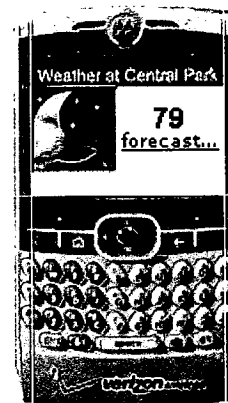
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Park side Ave. in Brooklyn, was pronounced dead at the scene. The female victim remained uninjured. Police recovered the firearms.

In the other case, a man allegedly shot at police who were pursuing him. On Sunday at 11:45 p.m., a group of females approached police on the street, saying that they saw a man, later identified as Javier Solis, 25, of 35-46 Crescent St. in Astoria, with a gun. When the police officers approached Mr. Solis, he fled, firing three rounds at them, police said. Police recovered the gun and three rounds of ammunition. They arrested him in front of 3763 Junction Blvd. in Jackson Heights. No police officers were injured.

Another incident involving police yesterday left an officer seriously injured. At 3:20 a.m., a uniformed police officer was at the scene of a one-vehicle accident on the Westbound Belt Parkway near Lefferts Boulevard when a vehicle struck her. She was taken to Jamaica Hospital in serious but stable condition. Police recovered the vehicle a short distance away. Investigators have not made any arrests, but they are questioning a suspect in connection with the incident, according to NY1.

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