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**STATEMENT BY U.S. ATTORNEY MICHAEL GARCIA ON
JUDGE BRIEANT'S DECISION TO OVERTURN THE
JURY'S GUILTY VERDICT IN U.S. v. COTÉ**

"This Office brought this case because Zoran Teodorovic, a pretrial detainee at the Westchester County Department of Correction facility in Valhalla, New York, suffered brain trauma as a result of an assault by then Corrections Officer Paul Coté, survived in a persistent vegetative state for fourteen months, and then died. After hearing the proof in this case, a jury unanimously found Mr. Coté guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of willfully depriving Mr. Teodorovic of rights and privileges secured and protected by the Constitution and laws of the United States. We are very disappointed in Judge Brienant's decision overturning the jury's verdict and are thoroughly exploring our appellate options," said Michael J. Garcia, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York.

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