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Bar Worker Arrested In Slaying at Rapper's Party

By Tom Hays The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A bar worker at a popular Times Square karaoke club was arrested Thursday after confessing to beating a woman to death with a pipe on the club's roof during an argument, police said.

Syed Rahman, 24, admitted he hit Ingrid Rivera over the head at about 2:45 a.m. Monday during a birthday party for rapper Lil' Kim that the victim had paid to attend, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly told a news conference. Her body was discovered Wednesday afternoon.

It was unclear what Rahman and Rivera, who had met for the first time inside Spotlight Live club that night, were arguing about. But a friend of Rivera's pointed police to Rahman by telling them she had fought off his sexual advances on the roof shortly before the slaying, Kelly said.

Charges against Rahman — who had worked at the club for four years and had no criminal record — were pending. Authorities did not have the name of his lawyer.

Rivera's friend said that around the same time, Rahman lured her to the roof by claiming Rivera was there.

When the friend rebuffed the suspect, he found the victim outside and "told her he could get her back in," Kelly said.

He took Rivera in through the employee entrance, then up to the roof in a service elevator, police said. Once there, he beat her inside a utility shed, killing her instantly, police said.

Police said that after Rivera's mother reported her missing Tuesday, officers went to the club Wednesday to review security videotape. Sometime after they left, a repairman discovered her body.

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