

FAMILY'S HEARTBREAK OVER

SON STABBED BY EVIL BRUTE



EXCLUSIVE by STEPHEN BREEN  
Crime Editor

**THE heartbroken parents of a teenager who was stabbed in the neck have revealed how “they lost the will to live” after their son’s brutal murder.**

Marius Mamaliga was just 19 when Brandon Gavin, 22, targeted him at Forest Court, Swords, north Dublin, on February 23, 2023.

And our exclusive image shows the apprentice electrician – who was sitting in his car when Gavin stabbed him from behind – just a few hours before he was attacked.

Gavin – who had searched Google for prison sentences served in Ireland the day before the killing – initially claimed that Marius “came at him” and he was acting in “self-defence”.

The thug, who also lied that he had been “under stress” before the murder, had also been searching Tinder for dates before killing the former Irish Taekwondo champion.

But the jury at the Central Criminal Court agreed with the prosecution that Gavin’s claims were “self-serving nonsense” before convicting him of the popular teenager’s murder.

**‘Our lives have been changed forever’**

In their only interview since Gavin received his life sentence earlier this month, Marius’ mother Inga told of her family’s ongoing pain. She said: “Our lives have been changed forever. We lost the reason to live.

“There is no joy in what we do anymore and happy moments don’t feel the same as they did before.

“As parents, we lost part of our souls, our hearts, and are left with a void that nothing and nobody will ever be able to fill.

“No one has the right to take another person’s life, to destroy the core of an entire family or to rob a young man of his future.

“The death of our child brought us to our knees, destroyed our souls, broke our hearts, ruined every dream for the future and left us in complete despair as we dealt

Santa baby . . . a young Marius



● LAD ATTACKED SITTING IN CAR

● THUG GOOGLED KILL JAIL TERMS



with unbearable pain that will stay with us until the end of our days.

“As a result of this, we all needed psychological counselling and medical treatment that we are still following to this day for anxiety, depression, insomnia, and panic attacks, and for hypertension.”

And Marius’ dad Victor paid tribute to his son after revealing how his organs had saved three lives.

He said: “My son was loved by everyone and he was just a kind, caring and loving person. “He will always be our hero and his kindness has lived on by the fact that he has helped to save three lives.

“Marius represented Ireland in Taekwondo competitions and it was thanks to this sporting participation he developed such qualities as friendliness, honesty, empathy and perseverance.

“We would have been so happy and fulfilled if Marius continued to live realising his dreams of finishing his studies, setting up his own company and starting a family.

“Unfortunately, we have been robbed in the most dramatic, cruel

and unjustified way of these privileges of life and of the possibility to be happy and enjoy the most precious thing that gave meaning to our lives – our child.”

Mrs Mamaliga, who is originally from Moldova but has lived in Ireland since 2003, also revealed her family’s torment at Christmas.

She added: “Christmas is a very difficult time for our family. I want to wake up in January when it is all over.

“Now instead of kissing our child at Xmas, we go to the cemetery to bring him our love and tears”

and forevermore. Now, instead of kissing and hugging our child, we have to go to the cemetery to bring him our love and our tears and to lay flowers at his grave.”

And Mr Mamaliga also revealed how the family struggled in the days after the horrific murder, adding: “It is extremely difficult for us all to live and cope with these feelings of permanent sadness, hopelessness, confusion and profound pain.

“When your mind tells you that you have to continue but you are drained because of the suffering and the body starts to give up.

“It is gradual and leaves you powerless and weak, lacking the

ability to concentrate both at home and work.

“The inability to work caused by the trauma of losing our son, especially at the beginning of the grieving process, had a negative impact on our family.

“We suffered some significant financial losses, which has only aggravated further the mental and physical state of all the members of our family.”

During Gavin’s trial, the court heard how the killer had claimed that he owed a drug debt of €2,500 to his victim.

The murder victim’s mum added: “I would like to point out that the person who took my son from us wasn’t his friend. They went to primary school together, but that was it – I never heard his name being mentioned.

“Even if there was some sort of debt – it’s not a reason to take someone’s life.

“We didn’t know anything about some so-called drug debt because Marius worked since he was 16 years old.

“He was independent and we never had the Gardai knocking on our door.

“When he was killed, there were no weapons in the car, there were no drugs in the car, there were no drugs in his system and he was never violent.” The murder victim’s

mother also thanked everyone who has supported the family since his tragic passing.

She added: “Marius’ friends, his work colleagues and his school-mates provided us all with great support during this difficult time in our lives.

“We would also like to thank the team at Swords Garda Station, especially the liaison officer Elaine Duffy, the Ambulance Service, the entire ICU staff at Beaumont, and the doctors who looked after our son in the last days of his life.

“We would also like to thank the Advocates for Victims of Homicide for their support and, from the bottom of our hearts, we would

like to thank the people that offered Marius first aid – they gave us the precious opportunity to stay at his bedside for the last three days of his life and to tell him how much we loved him.”

Following the family’s powerful victim impact statement at court, Gavin’s legal team outlined how he “knew” he had “ruined many lives” before asking for forgiveness.

Mr Mamaliga added: “He had never shown any remorse and only said something after our victim impact statement.

“We don’t think about him in any shape or form and we feel sorry for his parents.”

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**SICK-KILLER**

Gavin’s legal team said he had ‘ruined many lives’



**SORELY-MISSED**

Teen Marius was training to be an electrician