

# PROFESSOR SLAIN IN MUGGING HERE

Witnesses See Three Youths  
Stab Dr. Friedmann Near  
the Columbia Campus

By EMANUEL PERLMUTTER

Dr. Wolfgang G. Friedmann, professor of international law and director of international legal research at Columbia University, was robbed and stabbed to death yesterday afternoon three blocks from the campus.

The police, responding to an anonymous phone call, found the body of the 65-year-old scholar and refugee from Nazi Germany in front of Public School 36 on Amsterdam Avenue between 122d and 123d Streets. His gray shirt and blue blazer sports jacket were bloody. His wallet was missing, and his attaché case was lying at his side.

Witnesses told detectives they had seen three youths between 15 and 17 years old wrest a wallet from Dr. Friedmann's pocket. They said that his assailants had tried to seize his wristwatch and that the professor had resisted. A struggle ensued in which he was stabbed near the heart and then the youths fled, the witnesses said.

Mayor Lindsay issued a statement last night in which he expressed outrage at the crime and announced that he had directed Police Commissioner Patrick V. Murphy to start a round-the-clock hunt for the assailants.

Dr. Friedmann once before was attacked, but he was successful in fighting off his assailants. In 1956, he was walking through Riverside Park on his way home from classes when two youths attacked him. One punched him in the eye, but the professor fought back, punching and wrestling with the two youths and throwing one to the ground. Then his attackers fled.

Last night three youths picked up by the police at the scene of the crime were taken to the West 126th Street police station for questioning. The

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# Muggers Stab Columbia Law Professor to Death Near Campus

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police would not say whether the youths were being questioned as witnesses or suspects.

Dr. Friedmann, who was born in Berlin on Jan. 25, 1907, was a Jew who fled Germany after the Nazis came to power. In World War II he served with the political intelligence department of the British Foreign Office and with the Allied Military Government from 1944 to 1947.

He was the author of numerous works on international law, legal aspects of foreign investment, world politics, social change and finance. His home was in North Salem, N. Y.

Deputy Chief Inspector Jules Sachson arrived at the scene at 5 P.M. to take charge of the investigation. There was only one stab wound in the body, which was taken to the Bellevue Hospital morgue at 6:30 P.M. for autopsy.

It was the second assault against a faculty member of Columbia in the last two months. On July 25, Henry S. Coleman, dean of students at Columbia College, was shot and seriously wounded in his office by a former student who was seeking readmission following his dismissal for bad grades. The student is still being sought.

Dr. William McGill, president of Columbia University, said: "I was shocked and saddened by the death of Professor Friedmann. It produces feelings beyond expression. He was not just an eminent scholar of international law. He was my friend and colleague."

And Michael I. Sovern dean of the Columbia Law School, said "I grieve for him, for us,



The New York Times  
Dr. Wolfgang Friedmann

and for a world that violently carries off its men of peace." He said that the time and place for a memorial service to Dr. Friedmann would be announced shortly.

David Kern, a Columbia student and a friend of one of Dr. Friedmann's four sons, recalled

last night that the slain scholar frequently spoke about the days when he had been a judge in Germany before the war.

On one occasion, according to Mr. Kern, Nazi storm troopers came into Dr. Friedmann's court demanding sterner penalties for accused criminals. The judge ordered them out of his courtroom, Mr. Kern said.

In a brief news conference held last night at the scene, Detective Capt. Martin Kost said that the police had conducted an intensive search in the area but had found no weapon. He said that nobody had gone to Dr. Friedmann's aid during the assault.

In his statement last night, the Mayor said that he had spoken to the professor's widow, May, to convey his "deepest and most heartfelt sympathy" to her and her four sons, Anthony, John, Peter and Martin Friedmann. He said he had also expressed shock to Dr. McGill.

"I have assured Mrs. Friedmann and President McGill that no effort will be spared to apprehend those responsible," Mr. Lindsay said.

"I call on all citizens who have any information pertaining to the murder to help the police in this highest priority inves-

tigation. Anyone with information should call 663-9500 or 663-9501."

Dr. Friedmann obtained his law degree from the University of Berlin in 1930. He received graduate law degrees later from the University of London and the University of Melbourne and was admitted as barrister-at-law in Middle Temple, London.

In addition to Columbia, he had been on the law faculties of the University of Toronto and the University of Melbourne. He delivered the Carnegie Lectures at the Hague in 1959 and was a visiting professor at the University of Paris in 1969.

His best known books were "Law and a Changing Society," published in 1959 and "Changing Structure of International Law," published in 1964.

Tribute was paid to Dr. Friedmann in the spring 1971 issue of the Columbia Journal of Transitional Law. In addition to praising him for having been the journal's "spiritual guide and financial guardian," the editorial continued:

"Few men in our generation have written authoritatively on such a wide spectrum of issues. Even fewer have equalled Pro-

fessor Friedmann's perseverance in the search for new ideas and in the quest for their fulfillment."

The journal said that Professor Friedmann was not only respected as a jurist, scholar and humanist, but that he had also demonstrated courage and willingness to condemn "unconscionable" use of force by nations."