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D.A. BROWN: BROOKLYN MAN PLEADS GUILTY
TO RAPING TWO YOUNG GIRLS IN SEPARATE VIOLENT ATTACKS

Dragged Victims Into His Vehicle And Threatened Them With A Knife; Faces 20 Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Brooklyn man has pleaded guilty to raping a 15- and 13-year-old girl in two separate violent sexual attacks that occurred in December 2003 and October 2005, respectively. In both cases, the victims were walking home.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has admitted that he raped two young girls in two separate violent sexual attacks over the course of two years. A simple walk home turned into a terrorizing ordeal for each of these teenagers as they were brutally victimized and suffered physical and emotional trauma from which they may never recover. By his own admission, the defendant is a danger to society and the lengthy prison term to be imposed by the court is more than warranted."

According to District Attorney Brown, the defendant was apprehended for the December 2003 rape based on a "cold hit" in which DNA evidence found on the victim's clothing in the October 2005 incident positively matched the DNA recovered from the earlier incident. District Attorney Brown said, "This case underscores yet again the crucial importance of DNA evidence which is irrefutable proof of guilt or innocence."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Jofre Bautista, 34, of 105 Starr Street in Brooklyn, who was employed by a Long Island City awning company. The defendant pleaded guilty earlier today to two counts of Rape in the First Degree before Queens Supreme Court Justice Pauline A. Mullings who indicated that she would sentence the defendant to two concurrent determinate terms of 20 years in prison and that the defendant be required to register as a sexual offender at sentencing on March 27, 2006.

District Attorney Brown said that, in pleading guilty, the defendant admitted that on:

- The afternoon of October 18, 2005, opposite 70-44 48th Avenue in Woodside, he called out to the 13-year-old schoolgirl from his green minivan and asked her for directions to Queens Boulevard. When the child continued walking, the defendant exited his van, punched her in the face and pulled her into his van and threatened her with a knife and raped and beat her; and that on
- The evening of December 11, 2003, at the corner of 67th Street and Maurice Avenue in Elmhurst, he grabbed the 15-year-old girl from behind as she was walking along the street and dragged her into his car and threatened her with a knife and raped and beat her.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Richard Santangelo of the New York City Police Department's Queens Special Victims Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Arthur Hall, Commanding Officer.

Assistant District Attorney Frank P. DeGaetano of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Daniel A. Saunders.

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Note to Editors: An e-version of this press release is posted on the QDA website at www.queensda.org.