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**D.A. BROWN: BROOKLYN MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON  
FOR RAPING TWO YOUNG GIRLS IN SEPARATE VIOLENT ATTACKS**

*Dragged Victims Into His Vehicle And Threatened Them With A Knife*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Brooklyn man has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for brutally 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 now been held accountable for his crimes and will now serve a lengthy prison term. He raped two young girls in two separate violent sexual attacks over the course of two years. The defendant's guilty pleas and today's sentence provides closure to the victims and avoids their having to testify about how a simple walk home turned into a terrorizing ordeal during which they were brutally victimized and suffered physical and emotional trauma from which they may never recover. The defendant is a danger to society and I hope today's sentence imposed by the court brings comfort to the young women in knowing that a dangerous predator has been removed from the streets and will no longer be a threat to their safety."

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 on March 14, 2006 to two counts of Rape in the First Degree before Queens Supreme Court Justice Pauline A. Mullings who imposed today's sentence of two concurrent determinate terms of 20 years in prison and that the defendant be required to register as a sexual offender.

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."

District Attorney Brown said that the defendant admitted that on:

- The afternoon of October 18, 2005, opposite 70-44 48<sup>th</sup> 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 67<sup>th</sup> 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, prosecuted 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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