



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000**

Release # 243-2006
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2006

CONTACT: KEVIN RYAN
NICOLE NAVAS
MERIS CAMPBELL
(718) 286-6315

D.A. BROWN: MANHATTAN MAN CHARGED
WITH ASSAULT AND RAPE OF OUT-OF-TOWN VISITOR

Defendant Faces Up to 25 Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a federal employee living in Manhattan has been charged with brutally assaulting and forcibly raping an upstate woman last month. He allegedly met the victim in a midtown bar and took her to Queens where the rape occurred.

District Attorney Brown said, "It is alleged that a Saturday night out in Manhattan for a middle-aged female visitor to the City turned into a nightmare early Sunday morning. The facts alleged in this case chronicle a frightening night of sexual violence. Hopefully, the woman who was brutally victimized will rest easier in knowing that her alleged rapist has been brought to justice. However, even after the physical abuse has stopped, the consequences of such a sexual assault for a victim are profound and can result in emotional trauma from which she may never fully recover."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Joseph G. Musolino, 45, of 71 West 68th Street in Manhattan. The defendant, who is employed as an Information Technology specialist by the United States General Services Administration at 26 Federal Plaza in Manhattan, has been charged with first-degree rape, first-degree sexual assault and second-degree assault. If convicted, he faces up to 25 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, sometime between midnight and 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 8, 2006, the defendant, using the name "Joe Hill," left O'Neill's, a popular Irish bar on Manhattan's Third Avenue, with the victim, a 57-year-old female from upstate New York, and proceeded by taxi to an unidentified Queens location, where he forced her inside. Once inside the darkened house he is alleged to have brought her to an upper floor and ordered her to remove her clothes, striking her multiple times about the body. The defendant then allegedly bit the victim on the breast and raped her. The defendant then allegedly allowed the victim to dress before he pushed her down a flight of stairs, causing severe bruising and a laceration on her hip that required eleven stitches. The victim then managed to make her way back to Manhattan and the midtown hotel where she was staying.

According to the District Attorney, the defendant was arrested on Wednesday, November 15, 2006, by detectives of the NYPD's Queens Special Victims Squad and was arraigned last night before Queens Criminal Court Judge Joseph Zayas who ordered the defendant held on \$250,000 bail and set a return date of December 4, 2006.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives David Velez and Eric Echeverria of the New York City Police Department's Queens Special Victims Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Arthur Hall, Commanding Officer.

Assistant District Attorney John D. Carroll, 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.

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

#