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**D.A. BROWN: QUEENS DAYCARE WORKER INDICTED ON CHARGES
OF SEXUALLY ABUSING 4-YEAR-OLD BOY**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 37-year-old South Ozone Park daycare worker has been indicted on charges of sexually abusing a 4-year-old child on three separate occasions during a six-week period earlier this year.

District Attorney Brown said, "These are serious and disturbing charges which allege that a teacher's aide who had been working at a daycare center for about four years betrayed the trust of a four-year-child and his parents who had entrusted their child to her care, supervision and welfare. The defendant is alleged to have separated the child from the other children during the early morning hours and at nap time at the daycare center and to have taken him into a bathroom where she sexually abused him".

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Khemwatie Bedessie, 37, of 115-32 125th Street in Queens, a teacher's aide at Veda's Learning Center, a licensed private daycare center located at 104-87 128th Street in South Ozone Park, for the past four years. The defendant was arraigned on an indictment charging her with Rape in the First Degree, six counts of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, and one count of Endangering the Welfare of a Child earlier today before Queens Supreme Court Justice James P. Griffin. If convicted, she faces up to 25 years in prison.

According to the indictment, between January 4, 2006 and February 11, 2006, the defendant sexually abused a 4-year-old boy who was a student at Veda's Learning Center on three different occasions.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives Ivan A. Borbon and Thomas J. Sommerville of the New York City Police Department's Queens Special Victims Squad located at the Queens Child Advocacy Center under the supervision of Lieutenant Patrick Baricelli, Squad Commander, and Sergeant Guisella Rodriguez.

The Queens Child Advocacy Center is located at 112-25 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, Queens, and is a unique collaboration of governmental and nonprofit organizations working together under one roof to lessen the trauma of abused children and to ensure that each child is given the immediate, sensitive response he/she needs. The teams include staff and representatives from Safe Horizon, the District Attorney's Office, the New York City Administration for Children's Services, the New York City Police Department and various medical providers.

Assistant District Attorney Dianna L. Megias of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and Kenneth M. Appelbaum and Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Chiefs, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at www.queensda.org.