



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

Release # 87-2007
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2007

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

D.A. BROWN: “SHAKEN BABY” SITTER SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON
FOR ASSAULTING 8-MONTH OLD BABY
Victim Severely Brain Damaged

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that an Astoria babysitter for an 8-month-old baby boy has been sentenced to 15 years in state prison for having violently shaken the child and causing severe brain damage.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant has been convicted of violently shaking a young toddler in her care like a rag doll. Shaken Baby Syndrome is the leading cause of child abuse deaths in this country each year. Its victims are innocent and helpless children, often injured by those charged with protecting them. These tiny victims are often impaired for life or killed. Caregivers of children should heed the important message that these cases unfortunately bring to our attention – never, under any circumstances, shake a baby. In addition to spending 15 years in prison, the defendant must now live for the rest of her life knowing that her actions caused a child to suffer severe neurological devastation and robbed him of a normal life.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Korean-born Yun Zapana, 54, of 21-75 19th Street in Astoria, who was found guilty last February of first-degree assault and endangering the welfare of a child after a four-week jury trial. Supreme Court Justice Richard L. Buchter, who presided at trial, imposed today’s determinate sentence of 15 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, the defendant had been hired as a babysitter for 8-month-old Rew An. On the morning of March 3, 1999, Rew’s father dropped his healthy son off at the defendant’s house. Hours later, the defendant called Rew’s mother and told her that he was asleep and would not wake up. The parents rushed Rew, who was convulsing, to a local Queens hospital. He was then transferred to New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center where medical personnel observed subdural and subarachnoid hematomas, bruises and bilateral retinal hemorrhages – the classic signs of Shaken Baby Syndrome.

The District Attorney said that, at trial, Rew’s pediatric neurologist, Dr. Gail E. Solomon, testified that Rew (who is now eight years old), does not speak, cannot track light with his eyes, can’t respond to his name, has no control of his extremities, can’t feed himself and can’t walk or be toilet trained because of the severe damage to his brain.

Assistant District Attorney Leigh Bishop, of the District Attorney’s Special Victims Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and Kenneth M. Appelbaum and Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Bureau 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.

#

Note to Editors: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org.