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Release # 33-2007  
[www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2007

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**D.A. BROWN: “SHAKEN BABY” SITTER CONVICTED AT TRIAL  
OF ASSAULTING 8-MONTH OLD BABY**

*Victim Severely Brain Damaged; Defendant Faces Up To 25 Years In Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that an Astoria woman hired as a babysitter for an 8-month baby boy has been convicted after a month-long jury trial of violently shaking the child, who is now severely brain damaged.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant has been convicted of violently shaking the young toddler in her care like a rag doll. Shaken Baby Syndrome is the leading cause of child abuse deaths 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. The defendant must now live the rest of her life knowing that her actions caused her victim 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 19<sup>th</sup> Street in Astoria, who was found guilty today of first-degree assault and endangering the welfare of a child after a four-week trial by a jury of eight women and four men, who deliberated over three days before returning its verdict before Supreme Court Justice Richard L. Buchter. Sentencing was set for February 28, 2007, at which time the defendant faces up to twenty-five 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.

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**Note to Editors: E-version of this press release posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**



Yun Zapana, 54