



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

Release 115-2007
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2007

CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE
(718) 286-6315

D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN CHARGED AS SEXUAL PREDATOR
IN BRUTAL ASSAULT ON FEMALE ACQUAINTANCE

*Allegedly Lured Victim to Garage and Held Her Against Her Will
For Several Hours; Faces Up to Life In Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Jamaica, Queens, man has been charged with the brutal and bloody sexual assault of a female acquaintance whom he allegedly terrorized for several hours as he held her hostage in his family's garage.

District Attorney Brown said, "Having allegedly been lured to the garage by the defendant by the pretense of attending a family barbecue, the victim was found several hours later critically injured and laying naked on the floor with blood scattered throughout the room. Besides her physical injuries, the victim will surely suffer significant psychological trauma as a result of this ordeal. For her attacker to have acted in such a vicious and violent manner is beyond comprehension. My office will ensure that our community is protected from such suspected dangerous sexual predators."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Joseph Burrell, 44, of 105-02 171st Street in Jamaica, Queens. The defendant was arraigned this past weekend before Queens Criminal Court Judge Lenora Gerald on charges of predatory sexual act, first-degree criminal sexual act, first-degree attempted rape and second- and third-degree assault. The defendant, who faces up to 25 years to life in prison if convicted, was ordered held on \$100,000 bail and to return to court on June 4, 2007.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the 42-year-old victim accompanied the defendant on the evening of Wednesday, May 16, 2007, to what she had been told was a barbecue at his family's Jamaica residence, located at 105-02 171st Place. Once there, he allegedly took her into the garage – which his family had converted into a furnished room – and offered her a drink before becoming verbally abusive and attempting to initiate sexual contact by groping her body. Resisting his sexual advances, he allegedly then began hitting her about the face and body and grabbing and twisting her head. As they began to struggle, the defendant allegedly threatened to rape and kill her. He then allegedly ripped off her clothes and removed his own and, while she continued to struggle, made several attempts to rape and sodomize her. Thereafter, he allegedly broke a glass object over her body and continued to prevent her from leaving the garage.

District Attorney Brown said that the defendant's brother allegedly discovered him and the victim early the next morning naked inside the garage with blood on the floor, rug, walls and on the bar counter. When the brother began questioning the defendant, he is alleged to have fled the garage at which time one of the defendant's siblings called 911 to report the incident. The defendant was arrested later that day by detectives of the NYPD's 103rd Detective Squad.

According to the District Attorney, the victim was taken to a local Queens hospital, where she was admitted to the critical care unit.

The investigation was conducted by detectives of the New York City Police Department's 103rd Detective Squad under the command of Lieutenant Sal Salerno.

Assistant District Attorney Frank P. DeGaetano, Supervisor in the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief and Assistant District Attorneys Kenneth M. Appelbaum and Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and under 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 a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

#

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