



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

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

**D.A. BROWN: PENNSYLVANIA WOMAN AND 4 OTHERS CHARGED
IN VIOLENT ASSAULT AND ROBBERY OF EX-HUSBAND AT JFK HOTEL**

*Alleged Attackers Include 14-Year-Old Boy; Victim Hospitalized
With Multiple Facial Fractures Among Other Injuries*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Pennsylvania woman allegedly upset that her former husband was leaving her for another woman has been charged with hiring four other individuals from Pennsylvania – including her friend’s 14-year-old son – to brutally beat and rob the 36-year-old construction company owner on the day they were to leave the United States for Egypt with their young daughter. The other four individuals – who were extradited from Pennsylvania – also have been charged for their roles in the plot.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendants are accused of staging a robbery in which the victim was brutally beaten in front of his six-year-old daughter who was allegedly covered with a bed sheet and told not to move or say anything – even as her father valiantly fought back but suffered a cracked skull and more than two dozen facial fractures, among other injuries. The terrified child was then allegedly left alone by her own mother in the hotel room with her critically injured father laying unconscious on the floor and bound with duct tape inside a blanket. My only hope is that she will be able to survive the emotional trauma of that which has occurred and grow up to lead a normal life.”

Port Authority Police Department Superintendent Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr. said, “Port Authority Police detectives at JFK, District Attorney Brown and his staff, and members of the Allentown, Pennsylvania, Police Department worked tirelessly on this investigation to arrest those responsible for this heinous crime, and I want to thank all those involved for their dedication to effecting these arrests.”

The District Attorney identified the five defendants as the victim’s ex-wife Heba Salama, 32, of 1221 South Route 100 in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania; Ryan Lane, 25, of 772 North Jordan Street in Allentown, Pennsylvania; Erica Jones, 20, of 752 North 4th Street, also in Allentown; and Abir Jimenez, 34, and her son, Mohamed Novhaili, 14, both of 600 J. Mickley Road in Westhall, Pennsylvania. All five defendants have been charged with first-degree burglary, first-degree robbery, first-degree assault and third-degree conspiracy and face up to 25 years in prison if convicted. The four adult defendants also have been charged with endangering the welfare of a child.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the defendant Salama allegedly plotted with her friend and co-defendant Jimenez to pay her and three other individuals to beat and rob her ex-husband – Morade M. Mohamed – at their airport hotel room in order to prevent him from leaving the United States. As part of the alleged plan, Jimenez is charged with renting a van and driving three of the defendants – Novhaili, Lane and Jones – to the Ramada Inn Hotel at JFK Airport at approximately 5:00 a.m. on July 14, 2006. At the hotel, Novhaili allegedly went inside to use the lobby payphone to call up to Salama and tell her to open the room door. However, he first had to request change from hotel staffers in order to use the phone. Minutes later, Novhaili, Lane and Jones arrived at the victim’s door and Salama allegedly let them in.

The complaints additionally charge that Novhaili and Lane then placed their hands on Mr. Mohamed’s feet to hold them but that when he began to stir, they placed a pillow over his face in an attempt to smother him. During an ensuing struggle, it is charged that Lane and Novhaili repeatedly hit Mr. Mohamed in the head and body with their fists and, at one point, Lane allegedly hit him over the head with a wooden chair. Mr. Mohamed ultimately lost consciousness, at which point, the defendants allegedly bound Mr. Mohamed with duct tape on his mouth, eyes and wrists before leaving

him face down on the floor. They then allegedly robbed him of \$4,000 in cash and, from under a pillow, took baggage claim tickets for 11 bags of luggage that he had previously checked in at JFK Airport. Salama then allegedly left the room, accompanying Novhaili, Jones and Lane, and met up with Jiminez, who was waiting for them outside the hotel in the van. Jiminez then allegedly drove the other four defendants to JFK's air-train terminal, where they retrieved the victim's luggage. Leaving Salama at the baggage terminal, it is alleged that the other four defendants returned to their Lehigh Valley homes with the luggage, which they stored in a public storage facility that Jiminez had rented in Whitehall Township.

District Attorney Brown said that it is further alleged that while the five defendants were gone, Mr. Mohamed regained consciousness and managed to free himself enough to call for help. Returning to the hotel room, Salama allegedly told her husband and Port Authority Police, whom had responded immediately to the scene, that she had been kidnapped at gunpoint.

The District Attorney said that Mr. Mohamed was admitted to a local Queens hospital in grave condition for various injuries that he suffered in the attack – including a cracked skull, twenty to thirty facial fractures, temporary loss of consciousness, contusions, bleeding lacerations and severe swelling to the eyes. He remained hospitalized until yesterday due to the bleeding and swelling which had caused pressure on his brain.

The defendants Lane, Jones and Jiminez, who were extradited last night from Pennsylvania, are expected to be arraigned later today in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens. The defendant Salama was arraigned on July 21, 2006 before Queens Criminal Court Judge Mary O'Donoghue, who ordered her remanded and set a return date of August 4, 2006. The defendant Novhaili, who was extradited last month from Pennsylvania, was arraigned on July 28, 2006, before Queens Criminal Judge Joseph Zayas, who remanded him in lieu of \$250,000 bail and set a return date of August 11, 2006.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives John Reilly, Edwin Rodriguez, William Kehoe and Donald Conklin of the Port Authority Police Department under the supervision of Inspector Anthony Fitzgerald, Det. Lieutenant William Hanley and Det. Sergeant Thomas Bomengo, and the overall supervision of Superintendent of Police Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr.

The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Catherine C. Kane and Benjamin J. Mantell, of the District Attorney's Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau, under the supervision of Gerard A. Brave, Bureau Chief, and Marc P. Resnick, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

It should be noted that criminal charges are merely accusations and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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