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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**D.A. BROWN: QUEENS DAYCARE WORKER SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON  
FOR SEXUALLY ABUSING 4-YEAR-OLD BOY**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 38-year-old woman formerly employed at a South Ozone Park daycare center has been sentenced to 20 years in state prison for having sexually abusing a 4-year-old child on three separate occasions during a two-month period in 2006.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant, by her own admission, took advantage of her position of trust to sexually abuse a four-year-old child. One can only hope that he recovers from the emotional and physical trauma she inflicted upon him. The defendant is a danger to society and her lengthy prison sentence will ensure that other children are protected from such a sexual predator."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Khemwatie Bedessie, 38, of 115-32 125<sup>th</sup> Street in Queens, who was formerly employed as a teacher's aide at Veda's Learning Center, a licensed private daycare center located at 104-87 128<sup>th</sup> Street in South Ozone Park. The defendant was convicted on June 12, 2007, of first-degree rape, six counts of first-degree sexual abuse and one count of endangering the welfare of a child following a one-week jury trial presided over by Queens Supreme Court Justice Michael D. Aloise, who imposed today's determinate sentence of 20 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that according to trial testimony, the defendant sexually abused a 4-year-old boy who was a student at Veda's Learning Center on three different occasions between January 4, 2006 and February 11, 2006. The defendant would separate the child from the other children during the early morning hours and at nap time at the daycare center and then take him into a bathroom where she sexually abused him. During the trial, a videotape confession was played in which the defendant described the sequence of events that led her to sexually abuse the child and in which the defendant states she "couldn't help herself."

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, prosecuted 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.

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**Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**