



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: PRESS OFFICE
(718) 286-6315

U.N. CONSULTANT PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Must Register As A Sex Offender In Accordance With Megan's Law

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that the director of a third-world non-governmental agency who has consulted for and represented various United Nations agencies has pleaded guilty to felony possession of an obscene sexual performance by a child. He was arrested last month at JFK Airport as he was boarding a flight to Bangkok, Thailand.

District Attorney Brown said, "Child pornography strikes at the heart of innocence – sexually victimizing and violating the human rights of the youngest members of our society around the world. It is often linked to human trafficking and child prostitution. This case is particularly disturbing because the issue of human rights has been the focus of the defendant's public career."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Clarence J. Dias, 65, of 25 Rockledge Avenue in White Plains, New York. Dias, who is an attorney and the director of the New York City-based International Center for Law in Development, pleaded guilty today in Queens Criminal Court before Acting Supreme Court Justice Pauline A. Mullings to one count of possessing an obscene sexual performance by a child. Dias is expected to be sentenced on April 21, 2009, to a conditional discharge and ordered to register as a sex offender for the next 20 years in accordance with Megan's Law.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, Dias was boarding a Cathay-Pacific Airlines flight to Bangkok on January 20, 2009, when he was subjected to a random search of his luggage by Transportation Security Administration personnel and found to be in possession of various DVDs, including one containing a paper cover depicting nine nude photographs of various explicit sexual acts between a pre-pubescent male under the age of twelve and an adult male. An examination of a portion of the DVD also revealed similar acts being depicted.

The case was investigated by Port Authority Police Department Detective French Pierson, under the supervision of Detective Lieutenant William Hanley and Inspector Anthony Fitzgerald.

Assistant District Attorney Catherine C. Kane, Chief of the Airport Investigations Unit, of the District Attorney's Rackets Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Gerard A. Brave, Bureau Chief and Mark L. Katz, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Assistant District Attorney Linda M. Cantoni, Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations.

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