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Release # 37-2009
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2009

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D.A. BROWN: AFGHAN DIPLOMAT CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING WIFE

Faces Up To Seven Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that an Afghan diplomat has been charged with felony assault for allegedly beating up his wife in their Flushing home during a 15-hour period earlier this week.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant is accused of repeatedly and savagely beating his wife over a prolonged period – at one point, even leaving their residence only to return and inflict more harm to her. Such conduct has no place in a civilized society."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Mohammed Fagirad, 30, of 144-34 26th Avenue in Flushing, Queens. Fagirad, who is assigned as a vice consul at the Afghanistan Consulate, is awaiting arraignment in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens. He is charged with second-degree assault and fourth-degree grand larceny. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, Fagirad was involved in a verbal dispute with his 22-year-old wife at approximately 8:30 a.m. on February 11, 2009, when he grabbed her by the neck and held her against the wall with one hand. When he let her go, it is alleged, she fell to the floor, where he held her arm and repeatedly slapped her about the face and head. It is further alleged that Fagirad stated that his wife was a dog and that he was going to treat her like one, and that he struck her about the back at least three times with a belt as she lay on the floor. Fagirad then allegedly pushed her down a flight of stairs consisting of approximately thirteen steps before leaving their residence.

The District Attorney said that, during her husband's absence, the victim went to the 109th Precinct, filed a domestic violence report, and then returned home.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, when Fagirad returned to their residence a short while later, he demanded his wife's cell phone and took it himself from her jacket pocket. Finally, it is alleged that Fagirad picked up his wife and, slamming her onto the floor, sat on her chest and placed his hands around her neck during which he applied pressure for approximately three to four minutes. As a result of the assaults, it is alleged that the victim suffered bruising to her back, her right eye, and scratches and bruising to her left hand. She was transported to a local Queens hospital, where she was being treated for injuries to her back, ribs and neck.

The investigation and arrest were conducted by detectives assigned to the New York City Police Department's 109th Precinct.

The case is being prosecuted by the District Attorney's Domestic Violence Bureau under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Scott E. Kessler, Bureau Chief, and Kelly E. Sessoms-Newton, Deputy Bureau Chief, 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.

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