



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 CHARGED WITH CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AT J.F.K. AIRPORT

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 been arraigned on charges of possessing child pornography. He was arrested yesterday at JFK Airport as he was boarding a flight to Bangkok, Thailand.

District Attorney Brown said, "Child pornography is a global problem that sexually victimizes and violates the human rights of the youngest and most vulnerable of our society and is often linked to human trafficking and child prostitution. What makes this particular case most troubling is that the very focus of the defendant's public career has been the issue of human rights."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Clarence J. Dias, 65, of 25 Rockledge Avenue White Plains, New York. Dias, who is an attorney and the director of the New York City-based International Center for Law in Development, was arraigned last night in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens on a criminal complaint charging him with ten counts each of possessing an obscene sexual performance by a child and possessing a sexual performance by a child. Dias, who faces up to four years in prison if convicted, was ordered held on \$2,000 bail and to surrender his passport. The next court date is February 10, 2009.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal complaint, Dias was boarding a Cathay-Pacific Airlines flight to Bangkok yesterday morning, Tuesday, 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, it is alleged, also revealed similar acts being depicted.

The defendant was arrested by officers assigned to the New York-New Jersey Port Authority Police Department.

Assistant District Attorney Benjamin J. Mantell, of the District Attorney's Airport Investigations Unit, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Catherine C. Kane, Chief of the Airport Investigations Unit, Gerard A. Brave, Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Rackets Bureau, 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.

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