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D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MUSIC TEACHER ARRAIGNED
ON CHILD PORN AND RELATED CHARGES

Faces Up To Seven Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Flushing resident employed at private music schools in Queens and Manhattan has been arraigned on felony sex crimes involving an 11-year-old male student.

District Attorney Brown said, "The charges, if true, are very disturbing. A school – whether it be a student's primary one or an after-school study program – should always be a safe place for a student, free of sexual predators. The consequences of the defendant's alleged actions for the victim are profound and can well result in emotional trauma from which he may never recover."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Amos Duque, 24, of 150-11 Horace Harding Expressway in Flushing, Queens. Duque, who teaches classical guitar and piano at the Allegro Vivace Music School, located at 29-02 Francis Lewis Boulevard in Queens, and the Manhattan Harbor Conservatory, located at 1 East 104th Street in Manhattan, was arraigned on Sunday, January 4, 2009, in Queens Criminal Court on a twelve-count complaint, charging him with five counts of promoting a sexual performance by a child, five counts of possessing a sexual performance of a child, one count of sexual abuse in the second degree and one count of endangering the welfare of a child. Duque, who faces up to seven years in prison if convicted, was ordered held on \$25,000 bail and to return to court on January 20, 2009.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, while at the Allegro Vivace Music School, which is located in the basement of a church in the Auburndale section of Queens, on Saturday, December 20, 2008, Duque gave his cell phone to an 11-year-old male student and persuaded him – allegedly by offering him money – to go into the bathroom and take pictures and make a video of his penis and then later, to allow him to see and touch his penis. The defendant is alleged to have also referred the boy to pornographic websites on the Internet.

The alleged abuse case came to light when the victim revealed what had happened to a close family friend.

District Attorney Brown said that anyone with additional information or who believes that they may have been a victim is encouraged to contact the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau at 718-286-6505.

The investigation was conducted by Detective John Phelan of the New York City Police Department's Queens Special Victims Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Arthur Hall, Commanding Officer

Assistant District Attorney Lauren Parson, who is assigned to the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and Kenneth M. Appelbaum and Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, 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