



**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000**

RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2009

**CONTACT: KEVIN RYAN
HELEN PETERSON
MERIS CAMPBELL
(718) 286-6315**

NEWS ADVISORY

Khaalif Preacher, 27, of 1384 Pacific Street, and Ian L. McFarlane, 57, of 285 East 35th Street, both of Brooklyn, were arraigned last night, just before midnight, before Queens Criminal Court Judge Lenora Gerald on charges of second-degree assault, second-degree assault on an officer, first-degree reckless endangerment, first-degree unlawful imprisonment, resisting arrest, third-degree unlawful fleeing a police officer in a motor vehicle and unlawful solicitation of ground transportation services. If convicted, they each face up to seven years in prison.

Preacher and McFarlane are charged with steering five unsuspecting French tourists to their unauthorized van service outside JFK's Air France terminal and then holding the passengers against their will as the van raced approximately seven miles through sections of Queens and Brooklyn in an attempt to escape pursuing police vehicles. The tourists' harrowing journey began when Port Authority police officers attempted to cite the defendants for "hustling" passengers at the airport.

Judge Gerald ordered each of the defendants held on \$50,000 bail and set a return date of July 8, 2009 in Part AP6.

Preacher is represented by Stanley Rubin, of the Legal Aid Society (718-286-2416). McFarlane is represented by 18b attorney Rochelle Berliner (718-261-3000).

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

#

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