



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

Release #197-2009
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2009

CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE
(718) 286-6315

**ISRAELI CITIZEN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON FOR SMUGGLING
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ON FLIGHT FROM AMSTERDAM TO JFK AIRPORT**
Checked Luggage Contained Compounds Used To Make Heroin With Street Value of \$4.5 Million

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that Israeli citizen Sosan Aziziandavidi, 47, has been sentenced to 10 years in prison and five years' post-release supervision after being convicted earlier this month of criminal possession of a controlled substance for transporting 32 pounds of a paste-like substance that chemical analysis revealed to contain codeine, morphine and thebaine – the compounds used to make heroin.

District Attorney Brown said, "Law enforcement has seen a disturbing spike in heroin usage in recent years and the substances that the defendant is convicted of trying to smuggle into our City had the potential to ultimately flood the streets of Queens and the rest of the City with \$4.5 million worth of the deadly product – endangering our citizens and wreaking havoc on our neighborhoods. This prosecution and today's sentence reflects the seriousness of the crimes to which the defendant has been found guilty."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Sosan Aziziandavidi, 47, an Israeli citizen and resident. The defendant was convicted of first- and third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance on October 15, 2009, following a five-day jury trial before Queens Supreme Court Justice Barry Kron, who imposed today's sentence of 10 years in prison and five years' post-release supervision on the top count and a concurrent five years in prison and one year post-release supervision on the second count.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, the defendant was stopped by a Customs and Border Protection Officer inside Terminal 4 at JFK Airport on March 11, 2007, following her arrival from Amsterdam on a KLM Airlines flight. The officer testified that the defendant's hands were shaking, she was sweating, her carotid artery was pulsating and she appeared nervous. He asked her to open her luggage and he noticed an overwhelming odor of chemicals. Upon further inspection the suitcase was determined to have a false bottom that contained bags of brown paste which were subsequently identified as codeine, morphine and thebaine – the raw materials used to create heroin. A narcotics expert testified that if the substances were further processed into heroin they would have a street value of \$4.5 million based on the fact that they would create enough product to fill 450,000 \$10 bags of heroin for street sale.

Assistant District Attorney Marissa B. Gillespie, of the District Attorney's Narcotic Trials Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Karen H. Rankin, Bureau Chief, Robert J. Ferino and Barry S. Weinrib, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and the overall supervision of James C. Quinn, Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney, Trial Division, and John H. Larsen and Robert J. Masters, Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys.

#

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

