



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

TAXI DRIVER SENTENCED TO 5½ YEARS IN PRISON
FOR ATTEMPTED RAPE OF FEMALE PASSENGER

Must Register as Sex Offender

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a livery cab driver has been sentenced to 5½ years in prison for the attempted rape of a 23-year-old female passenger last March.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant is a danger to society and I hope that today’s sentence brings comfort to his victim in knowing that a dangerous predator has been removed from the streets and will no longer be a threat to her safety or to that of other women.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Klever Sailema, 46, of 79-11 41st Avenue in Elmhurst, Queens. Sailema, who has been held in jail in lieu of \$50,000 bail since his arrest in March 2009, pleaded guilty in July to attempted first-degree rape before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Joseph Grosso who imposed today’s determinate sentence of five and one-half years in prison plus seven years post-release supervision. As a convicted sex offender, Sailema must also register with the state’s Division of Criminal Justice Services, which will place his name in the Sex Offender Registry database.

District Attorney Brown said that, defendant Sailema admitted that the 23-year-old victim entered his livery cab at approximately 1:00 a.m. on March 2, 2009, in the vicinity of 28th Avenue and 37th Street in Astoria. At some point, the victim fell asleep in the back seat and when she awoke her pants and underwear were down and Sailema was on top of her. The victim began screaming and punching the defendant, biting him on the arm, before grabbing the defendant’s hack registration and a photo of the defendant and fleeing the vehicle. The victim was taken to a local Queens hospital and treated for injuries sustained during the attempted rape.

Assistant District Attorney Jared R. Rosenblatt, of the District Attorney’s Special Victims Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and Assistant District Attorneys 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.

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