



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **For Information Contact:**

#### **Public Affairs**

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<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc>

### **Group home care giver found guilty of criminal negligence of a vulnerable adult**

**Washington, D.C.** - United States Attorney Kenneth L. Wainstein and District of Columbia Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby announced today that Modibo Keita, 45, of the 1200 block of 5<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, D.C., was sentenced yesterday, November 21, 2005, on the charge of criminal negligence of a vulnerable adult. Keita was charged with burning a vulnerable adult group home resident on August 29, 2004, by seating that vulnerable adult in scalding bath water that Keita had improperly heated on a stove top. The water was hot enough to cause second degree burns to the vulnerable adult's buttocks and legs which covered 4% of the adult's total body surface area.

Keita entered a pre-indictment plea of guilty on September 13, 2005, to one count of misdemeanor criminal negligence. After accepting the guilty plea, the Honorable Erik Christian sentenced Keita to the maximum 180-day term of imprisonment, which was suspended. The Court also placed the defendant on a three-year period of supervised probation with the conditions that he perform 100 hours of community service and refrain from working as a care giver or provider in the health care industry.

The Office of the Inspector General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) investigated the criminal negligence. An appointed

Successor Guardian submitted a Victim Impact Statement for the vulnerable adult, who is profoundly retarded and has limited communication skills.

In announcing the conviction, United States Attorney Wainstein and Inspector General Willoughby praised the work of Patient Abuse Coordinator Jonathan Rich of the MFCU, who investigated the case. Mr. Wainstein and Mr. Willoughby also commended the work of Assistant United States Attorney Tejpal Singh Chawla and MFCU attorney Dangkhua Nguyen who jointly prosecuted the case.

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