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PRESS RELEASE

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Former care giver for mentally retarded citizen convicted of criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult

Washington, D.C. - United States Attorney Kenneth L. Wainstein and Interim D.C. Inspector General Austin A. Andersen announced today that Saleh Londa, 29, of Mt. Ranier, Maryland, a former care giver at a day treatment program for persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities, pled guilty on April 25, 2005, before Judge Gregory Jackson in D.C. Superior Court, to criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult. Following the guilty plea, Judge Jackson sentenced Londa to a 90-day suspended sentence, one year of probation (including 40 hours of community service, anger management counseling, drug and alcohol testing and treatment), a fine of \$750, and a \$250 contribution to the victims of violent crime compensation fund.

At a proffer during the plea proceedings, Assistant United States Attorney Geoffrey Carter and Susan Bieber Kennedy, Director of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Washington, D.C. Office of Inspector General, presented evidence that on July 30, 2004, Londa was assigned to work as a care giver for a mentally retarded man who could not provide for his own care in Northwest Washington, D.C. (PSA 402). While in the presence of other care givers and other mentally retarded individuals, Londa forcefully punched the man in the chest and stomach multiple times with his fists, and then dragged the man several feet across a carpeted floor to pick up some items that had fallen from a table. As a result of the abuse by Londa, the man sustained various injuries, including friction-type injuries to his leg, right arm and neck.

In announcing the conviction, U.S. Attorney Wainstein and Inspector General Andersen thanked members of the D.C. Office of Inspector General, including Investigator Jonathan Rich and Special Agent Jacqueline Franklin. They also commended the work of Assistant United States Attorney Geoffrey Carter and Susan Bieber Kennedy, who prosecuted the case.

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