

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/queens/queens-couple-accused-assault-labor-trafficking-article-1.2648666>

## Queens couple accused of assaulting two Korean immigrant minors, forcing them to work



### **Richard A. Brown, District Attorney for Queens County, is cracking down on labor trafficking and child abuse.**

(Christie M Farriella/for New York Daily News)

BY [Dareh Gregorian](#)

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Tuesday, May 24, 2016, 5:33 PM

A Queens couple who allegedly used two Korean immigrant children as forced labor pocketed big bucks from their parents, prosecutors said Tuesday.

Sook Yeon Park and husband Jeong Taek Lee took in the eight-year-old boy and 11-year-old girl in 2010, and promptly put them to work in and outside of their Flushing home, the Queens District Attorney's office said.

The "female victim was forced to work almost every day after school for approximately ten hours doing housework, including providing Park with back and foot massages and manicures and pedicures," the DA's office said.

In 2013, her duties expanded, and she was forced to work at various outside jobs, including grocery stores, a restaurant and a nail salon, and had to give all her earning to Park and Lee.

The boy was forced to work at grocery stores beginning last year, prosecutors said.

The children were told they had to work to pay their expenses because their parents weren't sending any money from Korea, prosecutors said. In reality, the parents sent Park and Lee more than \$100,000 over the years - but instead of spending the cash on the kids, they pocketed it for themselves.

Park, 42, and Lee were initially arrested in the case in January and charged with labor trafficking and assault.

Prosecutors said the pair were forced to sleep on the floor — and the girl's floor was in a closet.

They were also routinely beaten, with Park breaking a glass dish on the boy's legs and hitting in the back with a wooden slipper, and attacking the girl with a nail clipper because “the manicure and pedicure that the victim was giving her were not up to her usual standards,” the DA's office said.

Park also allegedly sexually abused the pair.

The husband and wife were busted after the boy reported the abuse to officials at his middle school.

Park and Lee were indicted by a grand jury on trafficking and additional charges this week for swindling the parents, who'd been kept in the dark about what was going on.

Park and Lee deny the allegations.