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NEWS RELEASE

July 26, 2011

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AURORA PASTOR GUILTY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT ON A CHILD

An Aurora minister accused of sexually assaulting a teenage girl in his congregation in 2008 and 2009 was found guilty by a jury late yesterday.

Isaac K. Aryee (dob: 03-06-68) was convicted of *sexual assault on a child using force* (F3), *sexual assault on a child, pattern of abuse* (F3) and three counts of *sexual assault on a child by a person in a position of trust* (F3).

The victim, who was born in Sierra Leone, was a member of Aryee's church, Praise Chapel International Ministries. She was 14 years old when the first assault occurred in 2008. The assaults were reported to police in October 2009 when the victim's mother discovered that her daughter was pregnant.

The case was originally filed in Denver but further investigation showed that most of the assaults had occurred in Adams County. Venue was transferred to the 17th Judicial District and Denver Deputy District Attorneys Simone Montoya and Dominique Waples-Trefil were appointed as special prosecutors.

Aryee testified on his own behalf, denying the allegations. Defense counsel argued that the victim was not a child, based primarily on the fact a birth certificate was never issued in Sierra Leone as they were in the midst of a civil war at the time. The victim gave birth to a baby girl in March 2010 and paternity tests showed Aryee was the father. The jury deliberated about an hour yesterday before returning the guilty verdicts yesterday afternoon.

Aryee faces an indeterminate to life sentence with a minimum of 8 to 24 years in prison when he is sentenced on September 26, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. in Adams County District Courtroom 405.