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**BRONX MAN SENTENCED FOR SEX TRAFFICKING OF 17-YEAR-OLD  
RUNAWAY GIRL  
Defendant Will Register as Sex Offender Following Release**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man has been sentenced to four to 12 years for the sex trafficking of a Manhattan teen who was forced into having sex with several men after running away from home.

District Attorney Clark said, "The defendant preyed upon this young girl's trust and forced her into prostitution using violence and intimidation. Thankfully, she was able to escape him and help bring him to justice. His plea ensures he will be on the Sex Offender Registry."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Raymond Johnson, 29, of 2350 Valentine Avenue, was sentenced on December 20, 2016 by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Robert Neary to four to 12 years. Johnson pleaded guilty to the first charge on the indictment of Sex Trafficking on Oct. 31, 2016.

According to the investigation, in April 2015, Johnson offered the teen a place to stay after she had an argument at home. On the second day, he forced the girl, now 18-years-old, into commercial sexual work out of his Valentine Ave. apartment. The teen was able to escape after a month of abuse. On February 10, 2016, following a joint investigation between the Bronx County District Attorney's Office and the NYPD Vice, Major Case/Human Trafficking unit, Johnson was arrested for sex trafficking and related offenses.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Lauren DiChiara of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau under the supervision of James Goward, Chief of the Criminal Enterprise Bureau, and Joseph Muroff, Chief of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau. District Attorney Clark also thanked Detective George Munoz of the NYPD Vice, Major Case/Human Trafficking Unit.

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