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BRONX MAN SENTENCED TO 9-12 YEARS IN PRISON FOR ATTEMPTING TO RAPE A WOMAN IN HER STORE AND FOR ESCAPING RIKERS ISLAND

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man has been sentenced to nine to 12 years in prison for trying to rape a 41-year-old store owner in 2015, for escaping Rikers Island, and for a separate case in which he damaged property in the jail.

District Attorney Clark said, "The defendant went into the victim's store and tried to rape her in broad daylight. Thankfully, a passerby saw the victim in distress and called 911. The defendant will now serve time for the violent attack, and for two other cases from incidents that happened while he was on Rikers Island."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Oumar Fofana, 22, of 3603 Third Avenue, the Bronx, was sentenced to prison by Bronx Supreme Court Justice George Villegas. The defendant pleaded guilty to charges in three cases on November 14, 2018. Fofana pleaded guilty to Attempted Rape in the first degree, second-degree Escape and fourth-degree Criminal Mischief. The defendant has been sentenced to eight years in prison and 15 years post-release supervision for the Attempted Rape charge, and one to three years in prison for the Escape charge, with sentences running consecutively. He was also sentenced to six months in jail for the Criminal Mischief charge, which will be merged with the felony time.

According to the investigation, on August 1, 2015 at a location on Third Avenue, the Bronx, the defendant entered the victim's store, locked the door, and told her that he was going to rape her. Video surveillance at the location shows the defendant violently attempting to rape the victim by throwing her to the ground and pinning her down. The defendant went on to pull down her underwear and grope her. During the struggle, the victim scratched and bit the defendant and at one point got free from him but was dragged back to the rear of the store. After authorities arrived, the victim was taken to the hospital where evidence was obtained. In June 2017, there was a DNA hit that matched the defendant, leading to his arrest.

According to the investigation, on October 1, 2018 on Rikers Island, the defendant escaped the Anna M. Kross Center, climbed over a barbed wire fence and scaled a wall. He was found minutes later on the other end of the facility in a parking lot in front of the facility. The defendant was charged with Criminal Mischief for an incident that occurred on April 15, 2018



on Rikers Island, in which he damaged property in the George Motchan Detention Center.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Astrid Borgstedt, Trial Counsel in the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, under the supervision of Rachel Ferrari, Chief of the Child Abuse Sex Crimes Bureau, and Joseph Muroff, Chief of the Special Victims Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Russell and Supervisor Sheryl Konigsberg of the Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau, and Deanna Logan, Chief of the Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau, for their assistance. District Attorney Clark also thanked Detective Nicholas Cadavid, formerly of the Bronx Special Victims Squad, for his assistance in the investigation.

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