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## BRONX MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN STATE PRISON FOR RAPE, KIDNAPPING INVOLVING 14-YEAR-OLD GIRL HE SOLD FOR SEX

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man has been sentenced to 10 years in prison and 15 years post-release supervision for rape and kidnapping involving a 14-year-old girl whom he sold to men for sex.

District Attorney Clark said, "The sentence of this predator was handed down yesterday, the same day that a new state law was enacted making Sex Trafficking of a Child a B Violent Felony Offense. Under the new law, a person is guilty if he or she advances or profits from prostitution of a person less than 18 years old, without the requirement that the defendant use force, fraud or coercion. Had this law been in effect, this defendant could have been additionally charged with Sex Trafficking of a Child, and could have faced more time in prison on a consecutive sentence."

District Attorney Clark said Jermel Rosario, 43, of 2541 Aqueduct Avenue, was sentenced on August 15, 2018 by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett to 10 years in state prison and 15 years post-release supervision, and he must register as a sex offender. A full final order of protection was issued. Rosario pleaded guilty on April 24, 2018 to second-degree Kidnapping and second-degree Rape.

According to the investigation, the 14-year-old victim ran away from home, and was introduced to the defendant in June, 2015. She stayed with him, his wife, and their children for several months, during which time the defendant induced her to have sex with men who paid the defendant. Rosario also had sex with the victim on more than one occasion. He called the victim one of his "Cupcake Mafia." The defendant also tied the victim up, raped her and held her in the apartment after he accused her of stealing property.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Stephen Knoepfler of the Criminal Enterprise Bureau under the supervision of James Goward, Chief of the Criminal Enterprise Bureau and the overall supervision of Stuart Levy, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division (MORE)



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and Jean T. Walsh, Chief of the Investigations Division. District Attorney Clark thanked NYPD Detectives Anayansi Parris and Adrian Campos of the Vice Major Case Human Trafficking Unit; Grace Oboma-Layat, the victim's attorney with the Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights Practice; and Kathryn Kaplan, the victim's social worker with the Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights Practice.

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