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## **BRONX MAN SENTENCED TO 5-10 YEARS IN PRISON FOR SEX TRAFFICKING**

### **Defendant Forced 14-Year-Old Girl Into Prostitution; Advertised Victim On Internet**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man has been sentenced to five to 10 years in prison for the sex trafficking of a 14-year-old girl whom he forced into prostitution by assaulting her.

District Attorney Clark said, "The defendant sexually advertised the teenage girl on the website Backpage and made money by having the victim engage in prostitution. Today's sentence will keep a predator of children off the streets."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Santos Rodriguez, 26, of 612 East 180 Street, was sentenced to five to 10 years in prison today by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Denis Boyle. The defendant will be required to register as a sex offender upon his release. The defendant pleaded guilty to Sex Trafficking on November 7, 2018.

According to the investigation, on or about April 28, 2017 and June 6, 2017 at different times and at several locations in the Bronx, the defendant intentionally advanced and profited from the prostitution of a teenage girl. Rodriguez used force and intimidation against the victim to instill fear and to induce her to engage in prostitution, including slapping and strangling her. Rodriguez also engaged in sexual acts with the victim.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sarande Dedushi of the Criminal Enterprise Bureau under the supervision of James Goward, Chief of the Criminal Enterprise Bureau, and the overall supervision of Tarek Rahman, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division, and Jean T. Walsh, Chief of the Investigations Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked Assistant District Attorney Jason Birriel of the Criminal Enterprise Bureau for his assistance in the case. District Attorney Clark also thanked Detective John Zerafa of the NYPD/FBI Human Trafficking Task Force.

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