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BRONX MAN SENTENCED FOR ROBBING AND PUNCHING AUTISTIC MAN
Defendant Was Found Guilty of Second-Degree Robbery
Incident Happened Inside Victim's Apartment Building

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man has been sentenced to six years in prison for robbing and brutally assaulting an autistic man inside his apartment building lobby.

District Attorney Clark said, "The defendant, in the process of robbing the victim, punched him more than 20 times in the face. This was a vicious attack and a traumatic experience for the victim, who is autistic and unable to communicate. His vision continues to be affected and he still suffers the lasting psychological effects of this assault."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Steven Solano, 25, of East 155th Street, was sentenced today by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Margaret Clancy to six years in prison and five years' post-release supervision. The People had requested eight years in prison. The defendant was found guilty of second-degree Robbery on December 14, 2023, after a jury trial.

According to the investigation, on May 1, 2019, at approximately 4:00 p.m., the defendant and others chased the 20-year-old victim, who is autistic and non-verbal, into the lobby of the victim's apartment building. Solano punched the victim over 20 times and continued to hit him while he was on the ground. The defendant and the others stole the victim's backpack, which contained his lunch and keys, and fled the scene. The victim suffered facial bruising, swelling, cuts and bleeding from his eyes. He was taken to a local Bronx hospital for his injuries. The attack was captured on surveillance video and investigators found the victim's blood on Solano's shoes.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Devin Horzempa and Jacob Heric of Trial Bureau 60, under the Supervision of Susanna Imbo, Chief of Trial Bureau 60, and under the overall supervision of James Brennan, Deputy Chief of the Trial Division, and Theresa Gottlieb, Chief of the Trial Division.



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District Attorney Clark thanked Trial Preparation Assistants Feven Dereje, Orelbi Rodriguez, Soanny Sanchez and Nirmala Persaud, all of Trial Bureau 60; BXDA Video Technician Stalin Crespo, and NYPD Detective Daniel Banek of the Bronx DA Squad for their assistance in the case.

District Attorney Clark also thanked Dr. Stacy Nunberg of BronxCare Hospital, NYPD Detective Johnny Jimenez of the 52nd Precinct, NYPD Detective Vincent Figueroa of the 44th Precinct and Criminalist Justina Kawa of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for their assistance in the investigation.