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**50-2024**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**July 2, 2024**

## **BRONX MAN SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS IN PRISON FOR CARRYING A GUN AT BRONX PARADE AND TWO SEX OFFENSES ON RIKERS ISLAND**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark today announced that a Florida man has been sentenced to seven years in prison after pleading guilty to gun possession, attempted rape and attempted criminal sexual act against fellow inmates while being held at Rikers Island.

District Attorney Clark said, "The defendant was caught on the street with an illegal gun, posing a threat to the crowd gathered for a parade, and then committed horrendous acts against inmates while he was incarcerated. He has pleaded guilty on three indictments. This prison term will keep a dangerous defendant away from the community."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Christopher Cano, 30, formerly of Miami, Florida, was sentenced on July 1, 2024, by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Shari Michels to seven years in prison and five years post release supervision on second-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon; 3 1/2 years in prison and five years post release supervision on Attempted Rape in the first degree, and 3 1/2 years prison and five years post release supervision on Attempted Criminal Sexual Act in the first degree. These sentences are to run concurrently. The defendant pleaded guilty to the charges on December 4, 2023.

According to the investigation, on July 24, 2016, the defendant was spotted at the Bronx Dominican Day Parade on the Grand Concourse with a gun in his waistband. Police were notified and followed the defendant and stopped him. When questioned, the defendant said that he had a bomb in his shoe. He was immediately arrested and found to be in possession of a loaded .38 caliber firearm. The defendant also stated that he was paid \$5,000 to kill Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr, who was present at the parade.

According to the investigation, on October 19, 2020, while being held in the Rose M. Singer Center, the defendant walked into the shower area where the victim was and raped her.



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On May 4, 2021, according to the investigation, the defendant offered to aid another inmate in the George R. Vierno Center with his criminal case. Once inside the man's cell, the defendant forced the victim to engage in sex acts.

These cases were prosecuted by Jevet T. Johnson, Director of the Rikers Island Sex Crimes Prosecution Initiative, Assistant District Attorney Juan Pucha, Jose Arocho, Deputy Chief of the Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau, Francis Alberts, Chief of the Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau, under the supervision of Denise Kodjo, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division and Wanda Perez-Maldonado, Chief of the Investigations Division. District Attorney Clark thanked former Assistant District Attorneys Ilya Kharkover and Georganne Ladis.

District Attorney Clark thanked Trial Preparation Assistant Massiel Castillo and BXDA Detective Investigator John Watts for their assistance in the case.

District Attorney Clark thanked NYPD Lieutenant Carlos Bernard, and retired NYPD Detective Marcos Sanchez and retired NYPD Police Officer Richard Arce, as well as . Department of Correction Special Intelligence Unit -Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Investigator Clark Orellana, Investigator Connor Olsen and Correction Intelligence Bureau Investigator Jeffrey Rios and Investigator Walter Holmes for their diligent work in the investigation.