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For Immediate Release  
June 7, 2016

**CORRECTION OFFICERS CONVICTED OF BEATING INMATE AND  
ATTEMPTING TO COVER IT UP**  
**Attack in Rikers Island Jail Was Retribution for Inmate's Glare at Chief**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that four Department of Correction Officers and a former DOC chief of security have been convicted of assaulting an inmate and attempting to cover up the beating in a Rikers Island jail.

District Attorney Clark said, "A Bronx jury has sent a clear message that a uniform and a badge does not absolve anyone from committing a crime, and that even a criminal behind bars deserves to be treated like a human being.

"These Correction Officers brutally beat Jahmal Lightfoot, and the jurors—after a three-month trial—found them guilty of assault and charges that they tried to cover it up. Anyone who commits a crime of violence or corruption on Rikers Island will be brought to justice."

District Attorney Clark said the five defendants were convicted by a jury today, June 7, 2016, of first-degree Attempted Gang Assault, first-degree Attempted Assault, second-degree Assault, first-degree Falsifying Business Records, first-degree Offering a False Instrument for Filing and Official Misconduct after a 12-week trial before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett. They face up to 15 years in prison on the top count when they are sentenced on September 6, 2016.

District Attorney Clark thanked Assistant District Attorneys Lawrence Piergrossi, Pishoy Yacoub, and Raymond Valerio of the Public Integrity Bureau for prosecuting the case. The District Attorney also thanked the Office's Video Unit, specifically Jorge Santamaria and Joe Martinez.

According to trial testimony, on July 11, 2012, former Assistant Chief for Security Eliseo Perez Jr., while overseeing an institutional search of the jail, ordered members of the Emergency Services Unit to assault inmate Jahmal Lightfoot in the intake area at the George R. Vierno Center.



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According to testimony, after Lightfoot locked eyes with him, Perez said, “This guy thinks he’s tough; when you get him to the intake area, take him to a separate pen and knock his ----- teeth out.”

Minutes later, Correction Officers Alfred Rivera, Tobias Parker, Jose Parra, and David Rodriguez carried out the order in a search pen that was covered with a sheet and had no video surveillance cameras, where they kicked Lightfoot in the face with their boots, causing fractures to both of his eye sockets and other facial bones.

The defendants were convicted of falsifying their DOC Use of Force Reports. They had claimed that Lightfoot had attacked Rivera with a sharpened piece of metal and they used force to restrain Lightfoot.

Correction Officer Jeffrey Richard was acquitted of charges in connection with the cover-up. Captain Gerald Vaughn and Correction Officers Harmon Frierson and Dwayne Maynard opted for a bench trial and await their verdict.

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