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TWO RIKERS ISLAND INMATES INDICTED FOR SLASHING TWO NYC DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION OFFICERS

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that two inmates jailed in Rikers Island have been indicted for attacking two New York City Department of Correction Officers, one of whom suffered a gash that required six stitches.

District Attorney Clark said, “Swiftly prosecuting this ruthless and unprovoked attack is made possible by the great working collaboration between our new Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau and the Department of Correction. We will continue to work together to make the jails safer for everyone, and send the message that violence will not be tolerated.”

District Attorney Clark said defendants Justin Guzman, 27, and Fatir Bowie, 20, who are incarcerated, have been indicted on two counts of first-degree Attempted Assault, three counts of second-degree Assault, first-degree and second-degree Promoting Prison Contraband, third-degree Assault, fourth-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon, and second-degree Obstructing Governmental Administration.

Guzman was arraigned on Friday, October 21, 2016, before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Ralph Fabrizio and remanded. Bowie was arraigned today before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Barbara Newman and remanded. If convicted of the top charge, they face up to 15 years in prison.

District Attorney Clark said that according to the investigation, on the evening of October 4, 2016, in the Otis Bantum Correctional Center, Guzman allegedly chucked his food tray at Correction Officer Kevin Hatter and proceeded to strike Hatter with a sharp object, puncturing his right ear. It took six sutures to close the wound.

According to the investigation, Guzman stated to Hatter, “That’s right. I popped on him. I popped on him.”

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As officers tried to diffuse the incident, Bowie approached Correction Officer Tahj Oree, whose back was turned. Bowie allegedly struck Oree with a sharp object, inflicting a bleeding laceration on the right side of the officer's face.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Travis Long of the Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau, under the supervision of Sonya Tennell, Supervisor of the Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau, James Brennan, Deputy Chief of the Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau, and Deanna G. Logan, Chief of the Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau, under the overall supervision of Stuart Levy, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division and Jean T. Walsh, Chief of the Investigations Division.

The District Attorney thanked the Department of Correction's Central Intelligence Bureau, and in particular CIB Investigator Anthony Marano, for their assistance in this case.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.

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