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RIKERS ISLAND INMATE SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON FOR BRUTAL UNPROVOKED ATTACK OF JAIL'S MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR
Victim Suffered Severe Injuries Including Broken Jaw and Nose

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Rikers Island inmate has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for repeatedly pummeling a medical worker in the jail, causing multiple injuries that required hospitalization and surgeries.

District Attorney Clark said, "This was a vicious beating of a man whose only goal was to counsel inmates. The victim, who was 68 years old at the time, does not even remember the attack as it was so violent. His injuries forced him into retirement. For such brutality, the defendant will spend 20 years behind bars."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Jonathan Hodgson, 38, who is at Rikers Island pending the outcome of a Manhattan Attempted Murder case, was sentenced to 20 years in prison followed by 5 years of post-release supervision by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Efrain Alvarado. He was found guilty by a jury of first-degree Assault and three counts of second-degree Assault on March 8, 2018.

According to the investigation, on June 18, 2015, inside the George R. Vierno Center, the defendant repeatedly struck mental health counselor Ralph Atlas, who was 68 years old at the time. The defendant broke the victim's nose, cheekbone and jaw, fractured his eye socket and caused multiple other injuries that required hospitalization for three days and subsequent surgeries. The victim suffered permanent disfigurement to his face.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Burim Namani of the Homicide Bureau under the supervision Christine Scaccia, Chief of the Homicide Bureau and the overall supervision of Nicole Keary, Deputy Chief of the Trial Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked Department of Correction Officer Anthony Davis and Captain Omar Guerra for quickly intervening and preventing additional injuries.

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