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BRONX MAN INDICTED FOR SEVERELY BEATING, STARVING TWO TEEN SIBLINGS INSIDE NYCHA APARTMENT FOR WEEKS
Victims Were Pistol-Whipped, Deprived of Food While Being Imprisoned; Did Not Attend School for Months

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man has been indicted on Kidnapping, Unlawful Imprisonment, Assault, and other charges for pistol-whipping, beating and starving a teenage brother and sister who were under his care, keeping them locked in their apartment for weeks.

District Attorney Clark said, “The defendant, who was the guardian of the teen siblings, allegedly made their lives a living hell. He allegedly pistol-whipped them and used a belt and a wooden bat, among other objects, to assault them, and deprived them of food. His alleged actions against these children are disturbing and sickening. We will obtain justice for the victims, who have suffered horrific trauma but are resilient and brave.”

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Michael Ramos, 34, of Burke Avenue, was arraigned today on four counts of first-degree Kidnapping, two counts of first-degree Unlawful Imprisonment, 14 counts of second-degree Assault, seven counts of fourth-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon, two counts of third-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon, Criminal Possession of a Firearm, and two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, among other charges, before Bronx Supreme Court Justice George Villegas. Remand was continued and the defendant is due back in court on August 16, 2023.

According to the investigation, between January 1, 2023 and April 17, 2023, the victims, a 14-year-old girl and her 13-year-old brother, were living with Ramos in his apartment in the NYCHA Eastchester Gardens Housing Complex. The apartment initially belonged to the defendant’s mother, who had legally adopted the victims when they were infants. The victims were left in the defendant’s care after his mother died in 2019.

According to the investigation, the defendant on multiple occasions allegedly held a loaded pistol to the victims’ heads and said, “Someone is going to die today. Do you want to die today?” and he would pistol-whip them. During that time, the defendant also allegedly beat the victims about the body with a wooden bat, a black tension rod, a belt, and an electrical cord, and used his fists. Ramos also allegedly jabbed the children with a fork and burned them with cigarettes. Ramos allegedly starved the victims. They did not attend school for months.



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Police Officers Kelby Castulo and Ginger Toth-Sipos of the 49th Precinct, responded to Ramos' apartment on April 17, 2023, after a 911 call reporting a commotion. The cops recovered a loaded, defaced 9-mm handgun on a table and found the children severely malnourished and bruised. The victims had to be hospitalized for treatment of their injuries and malnutrition.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Rachael Baughman and Christopher Conway of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, with the assistance of Astrid Borgstedt, Senior Trial Counsel in the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, under the supervision of Johanna Hernandez, Deputy Chief of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, Mimi Mairs, Chief of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, and under the overall supervision of Adrienne Giunta, Deputy Chief of Special Victims Division, and Joseph Muroff, Chief of Special Victims Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked Trial Preparation Assistant Elaina Clarke of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, and BXDA Video Technician Andrew Rio for their significant work on this case.

District Attorney Clark thanked NYPD Police Officers Kelby Castulo and Ginger Toth-Sipos, and NYPD Sergeant Anthony Lofaro, of the 49th Precinct, for their work on the case.

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

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