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Bx. Cop Busted In Teen Rape

BY ROBERT GEARTY
Friday, August 09, 1996

A Bronx cop has been charged with raping a 17-year-old and taking nude pictures of her after he arrested her in a domestic dispute and helped her get released without charges.

Rafael Suarez, 27, who works the night shift at the Fteley Ave. stationhouse, was charged with first-degree rape, aggravated sexual abuse, menacing, sexual misconduct, official misconduct and harassment in the Tuesday assault, police said yesterday.

The top charge carries a maximum penalty of 12 1/2 to 25 years in prison.

Police would not specify the circumstances that prompted Suarez to arrest the teen Monday on a harassment violation.

She spent the night at Bronx Central Booking, but prosecutors declined to process the arrest.

When she was released from central booking the next morning, Suarez, who was off-duty and in civilian clothes, was on the scene.

He allegedly told her: "Didn't I tell you that I could get you out? I keep my promises."

According to the criminal complaint, the cop then took her to his apartment on Sheridan Ave.

There, he ordered her to remove her clothing while "continuously and repeatedly touching his gun," prosecutors said.

Suarez allegedly raped the girl three times and took nude photos of her during the ordeal.

"I swear if you tell a soul what happened I'll put you back in jail," Suarez allegedly threatened.

After he let the teen go, she eventually reported the incident to police.

The Bronx Internal Affairs Bureau probed the incident, obtained a search warrant and found the photos in Suarez' home.

At his arraignment in Bronx Criminal Court yesterday, Suarez was ordered held on \$20,000 bail by Judge Frank Torres.

The Police Department has suspended him without pay for 30 days.

Though arresting officers are not empowered to free prisoners on their own authority, they can have significant influence in such a decision.

Police officials acknowledged that Suarez had played a role in the girl's release and said the circumstances were under investigation.

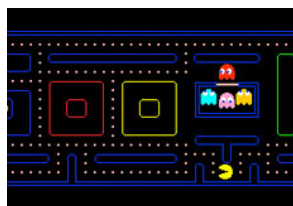
Suarez joined the Police Department in October 1990, officials said. His record had been good up to his arrest, they said. He has refused to be interviewed by investigators.

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