

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Theodore F. L. Housel
Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
Jan. 16, 2009
2 Page(s)

For further information contact:
Madelaine Vitale 609-909 -7855
or 609-457-7359

MAYS LANDING – An Atlantic City man was sentenced to 15 years in prison Friday for the October 2007 attack on a bartender at Proud Mary's bar on Fairmont Avenue in Atlantic City, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

Manuel Mariche, 24, must serve 85 percent of the prison term before he is eligible for parole, Chief Assistant Prosecutor Ellen Loughney, who represented the State, said.

In September 2008 Mariche pled guilty to one count of second-degree sexual assault and one count of first-degree robbery. On Friday Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury sentenced the defendant to eight years in prison for the sexual assault and 15 years to run concurrent for the robbery. In the judge's sentencing comments he suggested that the state Department of Corrections maintain Mariche under the highest level of supervision, Loughney stated.

In addition to the prison term Mariche, who is currently here illegally from Mexico, will be deported upon his release from prison as a condition of the plea agreement and sentence, Loughney said. The judge also ordered that the defendant have no contact with the victim for life pursuant to Nicole's Law.

Prior to the sentencing the court heard emotional remarks from the victim's father and an Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office Victim Advocate read the victim's statement to the Court in which she asked for the maximum sentence possible.

The victim said, "I walk around like it is 4 a.m. with keys in hand racing to my car every day, all day."

Loughney spoke about how the defendant ambushed the victim as she came out of the ladies room where she had gone while he was the only customer at the bar. He fractured her face in two places with one punch. He dragged her into the bathroom where he sexually assaulted her and then left her tied up while he stole \$378 from a cash register on his way out of the bar.

Atlantic City Police Detective Kevin Burrows conducted the investigation, which resulted in Mariche's Jan. 8, 2008 arrest.

Mariche, formerly of N. Iowa Avenue, was indicted in March 2008 on two counts of aggravated sexual assault; two counts of aggravated criminal sexual contact, one count of sexual assault and one count of criminal sexual contact. In addition, the grand jury indicted Mariche on two counts of robbery, one count of criminal restraint and one count of aggravated assault.

The defendant has been in a New Jersey State Prison since Dec. 6, 2007 on an unrelated charge.

Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor's Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS). Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.