



HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

12501 South Hawthorne Boulevard, Hawthorne, California, 90250

PRESS RELEASE

Issued: August 10, 2011

HPD DR #11- 10791

Suitable For Public Dissemination

Man Arrested for False Imprisonment and Attempted Sexual Assault

On Monday, August 8, 2011, at about 11:20 PM, Hawthorne Police Department patrol officers were dispatched on an unknown trouble call, to an apartment building in the 12000 block of York Avenue, in the City of Hawthorne. A woman had called the dispatch center from the location and was screaming for help. There were no additional details or circumstances available for officers as they responded. Upon arrival, officers contacted a small group of individuals directly outside the apartment in question, where they learned an intruder was inside with the resident. Officers could still hear a female voice screaming for help from inside the apartment.

Inside the apartment, two males were found in a physical struggle on the floor. Officers, who'd obtained a brief description of the intruder from the people outside the apartment, immediately attempted to place the suspect in custody. The suspect fought with the officers in an attempt to avoid being placed in handcuffs. As additional police officers arrived, they were eventually able to subdue the suspect. The male who had been fighting with the suspect prior to the arrival of officers, was determined to be a good Samaritan, who was questioned and released.

Subsequent investigation revealed that a 13 year old female resident of the apartment was sitting outside talking on the phone when the suspect walked up to her. The suspect tried to start a conversation with the 13 year old, who ignored him and went back inside the apartment, closing the door behind her. The suspect opened the unlocked door to the apartment and entered without permission, causing the 13 year old to retreat into a bedroom, where her 34 year old mother and two year old sister were present. The suspect followed the 13 year old into the bedroom, where he attempted to physically force himself on the 34 year old woman. At this time, the 13 year old fled from the apartment, and asked a passerby to call police for assistance. Another neighborhood

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resident entered the apartment in an attempt to render aid to the victim prior to the arrival of officers, and ended up struggling with the suspect.

During this incident, the 34 year old female resident sustained minor injuries not requiring hospitalization. The 13 year old and two year old girls were not injured. The suspect sustained minor injuries when he later punched the walls of his holding cell at the Hawthorne Police Department. The good Samaritan and all involved officers were not injured. The case is currently being investigated by Hawthorne Police Department detectives.

Arrested on multiple charges including Assault with Intent to Commit Rape, Attempted Rape, False Imprisonment, and Burglary:

- ***Lirisi Arzu, a 22 year old resident of the country of Belize***

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