



NEWS RELEASE

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UNION CITY TEACHER INDICTED FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT ON STUDENT

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY: September 9, 2009

On Tuesday September 8, 2009, the Passaic County Grand Jury indicted Francisco Lindo, a former teacher at Emerson High School in Union City, New Jersey. The school has since merged into Union City High School, South Campus. The Grand Jury indicted the 31-year-old Clifton New Jersey resident on one count of Sexual Abuse (Second Degree), one count of Criminal Sexual Contact (Fourth Degree), one count of Endangering the Welfare of a Child (Second Degree) and one count of Official Misconduct (Second Degree). The second degree charges each carry a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in New Jersey State Prison. The fourth degree charge carries a maximum sentence of 18 months in New Jersey State Prison. The Passaic County Prosecutor's Special Victims Unit, the Passaic County Prosecutor's Computer Services Unit and the Division of Youth and Family Services Institutional Abuse Investigations Unit (DYFS-IAIU) investigated the case jointly.

The investigation revealed that the defendant initiated a relationship with the 16-year-old student through text messaging and "chatting" on the internet. He sexually assaulted the victim and transmitted pornographic images to her during the time period between February 2008 and November 2008. Mr. Lindo, who was arrested on May 4, 2009, and has since posted \$100,000.00 bail, is prohibited from contact with the victim and is suspended from teaching.

A criminal indictment is merely an accusation. Despite this accusation, the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.