

Trial court cracks down on signs, photos, buttons, clothing for Massachusetts vs Karen Read trial

"The Trial Court has issued the following order effective for the Commonwealth v. Karen Read trial, which begins tomorrow with jury selection:

"COURT ORDER: It is, hereby, ordered that no individual may demonstrate in any manner, including carrying signs or placards, within 200 feet of the courthouse complex during trial of this case, unless otherwise ordered by this Court. This complex includes the Norfolk Superior courthouse building and the parking area behind the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds building. Individuals are also prohibited from using audio enhancing devices while protesting.

"It is further ordered that no individuals will be permitted to wear or exhibit any buttons, photographs, clothing, or insignia, relating to the case pending against the defendant or relating to any trial participant, in the courthouse during the trial. Law enforcement officers who are testifying or are members of the audience are also prohibited from wearing their department issued uniforms or any police emblems in the courthouse."-Massachusetts State Police.

21-year old Massachusetts man allegedly caught with CSAM videos of children one to eight years old

Defendant allegedly possessed videos files of child sexual abuse material; some depicting children approximately one to eight years old.

“BOSTON – A Lowell man has been arrested for child pornography offenses.

Steven Armando Estrada Ramirez, 21, was charged with receipt and possession of child sexual abuse material (CSAM). Estrada Ramirez made an initial appearance in federal court in Boston yesterday.

According to the charging documents, Estrada was identified as a participant in multiple groups on a mobile chat application, in which the primary purpose of the group, is for users share and view CSAM. It is alleged that multiple files located within those chat application groups depicted child pornography. During a search of his residence, Estrada was found to be in possession of a USB drive containing approximately 800 video files, many of which had filenames descriptive of child pornography, and the majority of which depicted child pornography. The files allegedly depicted children who appeared to be approximately one to eight years old.

The charge of receipt of child pornography provides for a mandatory minimum sentence of five years and up to 20 years in prison, at least five years and up to a lifetime of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The charge of possession of child pornography provides for a sentence of up to 10 years

in prison, at least five years and up to a lifetime of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy and Michael J. Krol, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in New England made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Lauren Maynard of the Major Crimes Unit is prosecuting the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse, launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the DOJ's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/psc>.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law."-Massachusetts Department of Justice.

Massachusetts State Police to roll out enforcement patrols

to catch you driving using your cell phone

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Throughout April, we are rolling daily high visibility enforcement patrols across Mass. as part of a nationwide distracted driving enforcement campaign.

Keep your eyes on the road, not your phone, or you could face a fine, or much worse. #JustDrive #DistractedDriving #EyesOnTheRoad NHTSA"-Massachusetts State Police.



Massachusetts State Police photo.

**Dominican living in
Massachusetts convicted of**

Fentanyl distribution, felon was previously deported

“BOSTON – A Dominican man was sentenced today in federal court in Boston for reentering the United States and distributing fentanyl after previously being deported.

Juan Carlos Santos-Ocasio, a/k/a “Cristhian Aybar-Done,” 44, of the Dominican Republic, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Leo T. Sorokin to six years in prison, followed by five years of supervised release. He will be subject to deportation upon the completion of his sentence. In October 2023, Santos-Ocasio pleaded guilty to one count each of distribution of and possession with intent to distribute 40 grams or more of Fentanyl and unlawful reentry of deported alien.

In October 2007, Santos-Ocasio was arrested in the Bronx, N.Y. for heroin distribution conspiracy. In November 2008, Santos-Ocasio pleaded guilty in the Eastern District of New York and was subsequently sentenced to 37 months in prison. He was removed from the United States upon completion of his sentence in the summer of 2010.

Sometime after his removal, Santos-Ocasio reentered the United States unlawfully. In November 2022, he was arrested in Lawrence, Mass. for reentering the United States without authorization. In addition to being in the U.S. without authorization, Santos-Ocasio also distributed 40 grams or more of fentanyl.

Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy; Stephen Belleau, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, New England Field Division; Todd M. Lyons, Field Office Director, Boston, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Enforcement and Removal Operations; and John E.

Mawn Jr., Interim Colonel of the Massachusetts State Police made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kaitlin Brown of the Worcester Branch Office prosecuted the case.”- Massachusetts Department of Justice.

Dominican national living in Massachusetts sentenced for selling counterfeit U.S. Currency

“BOSTON – A Dominican man has been sentenced in federal court in Boston for his role in a conspiracy in which he sold over \$150,000 in counterfeit U.S. currency.

Ruben Dario Diaz Sanchez, 68, was sentenced on April 3, 2024 by U.S. District Judge Allison D. Burroughs to time served (approximately one year in prison). In January 2024, Diaz Sanchez pleaded guilty to four counts of counterfeit acts committed outside of the United States, one count of dealing in counterfeit obligations and securities and one count of conspiracy.

Diaz Sanchez was indicted by a federal grand jury in October 2019 along with co-conspirator Maximo Morillo. The defendants were subsequently extradited to the United States in April 2023. Following sentencing, Diaz Sanchez was transferred to the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for deportation proceedings.

In or about October 2014, Diaz Sanchez, who resided in the Dominican Republic, solicited an individual in the United

States to purchase and smuggle counterfeit U.S. Currency into the United States. Morillo served as the point of contact with a printer manufacturing the counterfeit U.S. Currency in the Dominican Republic. Between May 2015 and January 2016, in the Dominican Republic, Diaz Sanchez arranged, negotiated and coordinated the sales of 1,590 counterfeit \$100 bills for a total face value of \$150,900.

On Feb. 15, 2024, Morillo was sentenced to time served (approximately one year in prison).

Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy and Michael J. Krol, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in New England made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by Dominican Republic law enforcement. The Justice Department's Office of International Affairs provided substantial assistance in securing the arrest and extradition of Diaz Sanchez. Assistant U.S. Attorney David G. Tobin of the Major Crimes Unit prosecuted the case."- Massachusetts Department of Justice.

New Bedford Police charge two teens after alleged moped theft, assault at south end plaza

"NEW BEDFORD – Patrol officers arrested two suspects after attempting to steal a moped in a south-end plaza.

On April 7th, at around noon, south-end patrol units responded to a call for two males wearing ski masks involved in an

assault in the area of the Seabra parking lot. Upon arrival, it was learned that the owner of a moped had witnessed two males in the act of attempting to steal it. He confronted the suspects, and a brief struggle ensued, during which they threatened to shoot him.

The suspects made their way out of the plaza and were observed by an officer who attempted to stop them. They fled and crashed the moped at the Frank St./Hemlock St. intersection before continuing to flee on foot. Sgt. Bryan Safioleas and Ofc. Patrick Kustka apprehended both suspects shortly thereafter in the area of Hemlock St. and Rockdale Ave.

One suspect was identified as DAMIAN BRETON, 18, of Maitland St. The other was a 17-year-old juvenile. Both were taken into custody and have been charged with masked armed robbery.

If you have any information you would like to share with the police, you can do so anonymously by visiting our website, newbedfordpd.com, or by calling 508-99-CRIME.”-City of New Bedford Police Department.

Police arrest New Bedford couple and charge them with Fentanyl Trafficking

“NEW BEDFORD – New Bedford narcotics detectives have made an arrest following a significant seizure of fentanyl and cash.

On April 4th, Detective Jonathan Miranda concluded his investigation into a fentanyl distribution operation, which culminated in a search warrant execution at 164 Richmond St.

The targets of the investigation were 40-year-old ANTONIO CONCEPCION-DIAZ and 39-year-old YARISBETH ROJAS-LOPEZ, both of that address. In addition to the residence, search warrants were secured for two vehicles connected to the suspects.

As a result of the search that followed, detectives located approximately 365 grams of fentanyl and 16 grams of cocaine, along with scales and packaging materials used in the preparation of narcotics for illicit sale. Additionally, \$4,287 in cash was located and seized due to the nature of the defendants' charges.



City of New Bedford Police Department

Both parties were placed under arrest and charged with trafficking fentanyl in excess of 200 grams, possession of

cocaine with intent to distribute, and conspiracy to violate the controlled substance laws.

“As the opiate crisis continues to take lives at an alarming rate all across the country, our officers continue to target the biggest offenders who are perpetuating the problem. We continue to fight this epidemic on multiple fronts, and I’m proud of all the efforts aimed at saving lives.”-Chief Paul Oliveira

It bears mentioning that this investigation began with an anonymous complaint from a concerned citizen. If you have any information you would like to share with the police, you can do so anonymously by visiting our website, newbedfordpd.com, or by calling 508-99-CRIME.”-City of New Bedford Police Department.

Massachusetts man allegedly rolls through stop sign, threatens to kill troopers, throws temper tantrum

“In the early morning hours of April 10, 2024, Trooper Nehme Rizk, a member of the State Police-Millbury Barracks, was conducting patrol on Harding Street in Worcester. It was then, that Trooper Rizk observed a White Ford Escape in front of him fail to stop for a stop sign.

Trooper Rizk conducted a traffic stop of the Ford and approached the operator, who provided a Massachusetts driver’s license. Trooper Rizk engaged the passenger in conversation

and saw the grip of a pistol with an inserted magazine, protruding from a pocket of a bag on the passenger's lap. Trooper Rizk returned to his cruiser and radioed for backup. Trooper Rizk was quickly joined on scene by Troopers Taylor Powers, Brady Grunewald, and Erick Zelayandia. Troopers Rizk and Powers then returned to the passenger side of the vehicle.

Trooper Rizk again located the bag, previously on the passenger's lap, and saw it had been placed between the operator and passenger. With a suspected firearm improperly stored and unsecured inside the bag, Trooper Rizk was able to remove the bag from the vehicle for the safety of those on scene. The two men were removed from the vehicle, handcuffed, and seated in the rear of separate cruisers.

The passenger, later identified as LUIS ORTIZ, 31, of Worcester, repeatedly offered different identities and dates of birth when asked to identify by Troopers. When Troopers demanded ORTIZ's license to carry a firearm, he refused to do so as he did not have one. Troopers removed the object from the bag and determined it to be a fully loaded Glock 23 Gen5 pistol holding 11 rounds of ammunition. With the discovery of the Glock, Trooper Rizk placed ORTIZ under arrest. The driver of the vehicle was issued a citation for failing to stop for the stop sign and was released with the Ford from the scene.

Trooper Rizk transported ORTIZ in the rear of his cruiser to the Millbury Barracks. Several times during the ride, ORTIZ kicked and punched the cruiser's rear window. ORTIZ then threatened to kill Trooper Rizk multiple times. Upon arrival to the Millbury barracks, ORTIZ refused to allow Troopers to remove him from the cruiser and threatened to fight and kill the Troopers.

During the booking process, ORTIZ was positively identified. ORTIZ continued to threaten to kill the Troopers during the booking process. ORTIZ's true identity was confirmed through the fingerprinting process.

LUIS ORTIZ was arraigned in Worcester District Court on charges of:

01. Possession Of A Firearm;
 02. Possession Of Ammunition Without FID;
 03. Possession Of A Large Capacity Weapon Or Feeding Device;
 04. Carrying A Loaded Firearm;
 05. Improper Storage Of A Firearm;
 06. Furnishing False Name;
 07. Threat To Commit A Crime; and
 08. Failure To Wear A Seatbelt.”-Massachusetts State Police.
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Boston man pleads guilty to trafficking minor for sex, coercing multiple women to prostitute

Defendant also transported multiple women across state lines to engage in prostitution.

“BOSTON – A Boston man pleaded guilty yesterday to trafficking a minor for sex and persuading and coercing multiple women to travel across state lines to engage in prostitution.

Jimall “Progress Lu” Dawn Brown, 35, pleaded guilty to one count of sex trafficking of a minor; one count of transporting an individual in interstate commerce with the intent that they engage in prostitution; and two counts of persuading and coercing an individual to travel in interstate commerce to engage in prostitution. U.S. District Court Judge Leo T. Sorokin scheduled sentencing for July 9, 2024. Brown was

indicted by a federal grand jury in November 2022.

“Jimall Brown is one of far too many people this office has prosecuted for human trafficking. The pattern is remarkably predictable and it is happening far too often right here in our backyard. Brown promised his victims a better life, but in reality, he exploited them for his financial gain, selling them for sex repeatedly,” said Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy. “No child or person must ever be treated this in this dehumanizing manner. This Office will not cease in our efforts to prosecute individuals who engage in human trafficking.”

“Jimall Dawn Brown lured this child into his clutches, with the promise of a better life, specifically to abuse and exploit her,” said Jodi Cohen, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division. “It will be a gratifying day when his sentence is handed down and the cell door shuts behind him so he can’t victimize anyone else. FBI Boston’s Child Exploitation – Human Trafficking Task Force will never stop working to find and help trafficked victims, to prevent them from further abuse, and keep their traffickers from hurting anyone else.”

“The scars borne by sex trafficking victims are certainly emotional, often physical, and always long-lasting. Targeting traffickers and bringing them to justice is a vitally important mission for law enforcement and a major benefit to society itself,” said Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden.

In 2022, Brown trafficked a 17-year-old, identified as Victim 1, to engage in commercial sex acts. He first met the victim, who was living outside Massachusetts, on social media and convinced her to fly to Boston, with promises of a “better lifestyle.” Brown posted advertisements of Victim 1 online and arranged “dates” for Victim 1 to have sex in exchange for money. Brown set the pricing for the commercial sex acts she

engaged in, for which he collected all of the money. In April 2022, Brown transported Victim 1 to Nevada, again arranging for her to engage in commercial sex and keeping all the money.

In March 2019, Brown persuaded and coerced a another woman, identified as Victim 2, to travel from Connecticut to Massachusetts to engage in prostitution. He met her in Connecticut and told her that she had potential and that he could provide a better, luxurious life for her if she would come to Boston, where he lived. Victim 2 came to Massachusetts and Brown posted online advertisements containing photos of Victim 2 on commercial sex websites. Victim 2 engaged in commercial sex and was required to give all of the money she made to Brown.

In May 2016, Brown persuaded and coerced a different woman, identified as Victim 3, to travel from Pennsylvania to Massachusetts to engage in prostitution. He contacted Victim 3 on social media, told her that she was beautiful, that he had a modeling agency, and that he wanted to work with her. Brown said he would pay for her plane ticket to fly to Boston and provide everything for her once she arrived. Victim 3 traveled by plane from Pennsylvania to Massachusetts. After she arrived, Brown took photos of her, purportedly for modeling, but instead he posted them on websites advertising commercial sex. Brown then coerced and forced Victim 3 to engage in commercial sex in Massachusetts and required her to give him all the money.

If you or someone you know may be impacted or experiencing commercial sex trafficking, please contact USAMA.VictimAssistance@usdoj.gov.

The charge of sex trafficking of a minor provides for a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years and up to life in prison, five years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The charge of transporting a person for purposes of prostitution provides for a maximum of 10 years in prison,

three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The charge of persuading and coercing a person to travel across state lines to engage in prostitution provides for a maximum of 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. Each count also provides for mandatory restitution and forfeiture. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

Acting U.S. Attorney Levy; FBI SAC Cohen; DA Hayden; and Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by the Massachusetts State Police and the Arlington and Randolph Police Departments. Assistant U.S. Attorney Torey B. Cummings of the Civil Rights & Human Trafficking Unit is prosecuting the case.”-Massachusetts Department of Justice.

29-year-old Taunton man charged in OUI, hit & run accident that claimed life of Fall River woman

“A 29-year-old Taunton man will be arraigned this morning in Taunton District Court in relation to a fatal crash, which occurred on March 10 on Route 44 in Taunton, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III.

Ricky Jorge Ponte is being charged with Negligent Motor Vehicle Homicide while Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Leaving the Scene of a Crash-Death Resulting,

Operating Under the Influence-Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury and Leaving the Scene of a Crash with Personal Injury.



Facebook photo.

The charges stem from a March 10 crash in the area of 380 Winthrop Street (Route 44). On that date, at approximately 9:15 pm, Taunton Police were called to the scene of a two car crash. Vehicle one was identified as a black Mercedes and vehicle two was identified as a Honda CRV. The Mercedes was found to be unoccupied, but a 46-year-old passenger in the Mercedes was located nearby. The passenger advised officers that the defendant had been driving the Mercedes, but he had left the area after the crash.

A short time later, Taunton Police received a call from an employee at the Irving Gas Station on Route 44 in Taunton. The employee told police that a man has just entered the gas station bleeding. The man was later identified as the defendant.

When first responders approached the Honda CRV, they found the driver, Margaret McGowan, 67, of Fall River, trapped inside the car. Her passenger, a 16-year-old female relative, was sitting outside the car in a state of shock. McGowan was eventually extricated from the vehicle, at which time she and the 16-year-old were transported to area hospitals. On March 28, McGowan succumbed to injuries sustained in the crash and died at the hospital. The 16-year-old was seriously injured, but her injuries were not life-threatening.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Charlie Schofield.”-Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III.



Facebook photo.