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FORMER NEW YORK METS PITCHER SENTENCED FOR ASSAULT
Receives Nine Months In Jail, Judge Issues Full Five-Year Order Of Protection

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that former New York Mets relief pitcher Ambiorix Burgos has been sentenced for the September 2008 assault on his girlfriend at a hotel near Shea Stadium. Burgos was sentenced to nine months in jail and was ordered not to have any contact with his victim for five years.

District Attorney Brown said, “According to recent statistics, one in three women will suffer some physical abuse during her lifetime from someone she knows. Six million American women are beaten each year by their husbands or boyfriends – and four thousand are killed. Today’s sentence represents a measure of justice for the woman assaulted by the defendant.”

The District Attorney added: “The defendant was convicted last month of brutally attacking his girlfriend during a domestic dispute. Violence against women is unacceptable – and particularly abhorrent when committed by those in the public eye who are viewed as heroes by small children.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Ambiorix Burgos, 24, of 131 South Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, California. Burgos was convicted last month of third-degree assault following a four-day jury trial in Queens Criminal Court. Judge William Harrington, who presided at trial, today sentenced the defendant to nine months in jail.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, Burgos was staying at the Holiday Inn, located at 37-10 114th Street in Queens, on the night of September 8, 2008, when his girlfriend, Maria Lopez, 26, of Pennsylvania, attempted to leave. Enraged, Burgos threw her up against the wall and repeatedly punched and slapped her as she held her arms in front of her face. As she lay on the floor he stepped on her and then began pummeling her. As a result she suffered a lump on her head and bruising to various parts of her body – including the eye and chest.

In testifying at trial, Ms. Lopez said that when she said she would call the police, Burgos said, “The police won’t do anything to me. I am a baseball player”

Assistant District Attorney Kelly E. Sessoms-Newton, Deputy Bureau Chief of the District Attorney’s Domestic Violence Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Scott E. Kessler, Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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Note to Editors: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org

