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HUSBAND AND WIFE STRIPPERS SENTENCED TO STATE PRISON
ON CHARGES STEMMING FROM RAPE OF TEENAGE GIRLS

Used MySpace To Lure Girls To Apartment And Then Plied Them With Liquor And Raped Them

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that Julio Rojas and Sophie Soto, a married Corona couple who pleaded guilty to felony charges in connection with the rape of two young girls under the age of 15 who they met through the social networking site MySpace, have been sentenced to 8 years and 2 to 6 years, respectively, in state prison.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendants used the Internet to lure obviously troubled young girls to their apartment where they plied them with liquor and sexually assaulted them. The consequences of the assaults forever and profoundly altered the lives of their victims. As such, the prison sentences imposed today will ensure that other youngsters are protected from such sexual predators."

Rojas, 32, who pleaded guilty in November to two counts of first-degree rape to satisfy two separate indictments filed in 2007 and 2008, was sentenced today by Queens Supreme Court Justice Daniel Lewis to a determinate term of eight years in state prison. His guilty plea covered a 2006 rape in which he used force to have sexual intercourse with a minor and a 2007 rape in which he had sexual intercourse with a minor rendered incapable of consent by reason of being physically helpless.

Soto, 23, who pleaded guilty, also in November, to one count of promoting a sexual performance by a child for directing an underage teenage girl to take pictures of herself depicting the lewd exhibition of her genitals and directing her to send them to Soto through electronic communication, was sentenced by Justice Lewis to an indeterminate term of two to six years in prison.

Both defendants will be required to register as sex offenders. In addition, Justice Lewis signed orders of protection for the two young victims that don't expire until 2023 in Soto's case and 2025 in the case of Rojas.

Assistant District Attorneys Charles J. Balvin and Stephen M. Dixon-Gordon, of the District Attorney's Special Proceedings Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Anthony M. Communiello, Bureau Chief, and Assistant District Attorney Oscar W. Ruiz, Deputy Bureau Chief, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted on www.queensda.org