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FORMER NEW YORK METS PITCHER CONVICTED OF ASSAULT

Faces Up to a Year in Jail

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that former New York Mets relief pitcher Ambiorix Burgos has been convicted of the September 2008 assault on his girlfriend at a hotel near Shea Stadium.

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. Four thousand are killed – and children are abused in 70 percent of the households where domestic violence takes place. "

The District Attorney added: "The defendant stands convicted of brutally attacking his girlfriend during a domestic dispute. Violence against women is unacceptable – especially by those in the public eye and 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 today of third-degree assault following a four-day jury trial in Queens Criminal Court. Judge William Harrington, who presided at trial, set sentencing for April 3, 2009, and ordered the defendant remanded. Burgos faces up to a year 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