



David P. Gonzales, United States Marshal

News Release

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Illinois Sexual Predator Tracked to Sonora, Mexico by U.S. Marshals in Arizona

Tucson, Ariz. – Last night, Baha Eddin Al Momani, a Jordanian national, was arrested by Deputy U.S. Marshals at the U.S. Port of Entry in Nogales, Ariz. after being deported from Mexico. Al Momani was wanted by the U.S. Marshals Service's Great Lakes Fugitive Task Force in Illinois for Sexual Assault. In 2011, Al Momani was tried in absentia and found guilty of criminal sexual assault on a female who was unable to consent.

In 2009, a female University of Illinois student, who then was 19-years old was having drinks with her friends at a bar in Champaign, Illinois. The victim, who was intoxicated at the time of the incident, was picked up in a van driven by Al Momani, age 36, and taken to a storage garage owned by the assailant. The victim, who was now passed out, recalled waking up in the van undressed with Al Momani laying on top of her kissing her neck. She asked Al Momani to stop and he did but told her that nothing had happened and proceeded to take her to her apartment. The victim later confided in her friend by telling the horrific experience, and was persuaded to inform the medical personnel at the local hospital. At the hospital, the victim was seen by a sexual assault nurse examiner, who later testified to the injuries that were consistent with and had sustained during the sexual assault. Detectives with the Urbana Police Department initiated an investigation into the alleged sexual assault, and during the investigation found the victim's earrings in Al Momani's van. In addition, DNA gathered during the investigation matched that of Al Momani.

In 2010, Al Momani was identified, arrested and later released on bond. As a condition of his bond, he was required to surrender his Jordanian passport. Al Momani fled the area shortly thereafter and had not been seen since November 2010. On January 2011, Al Momani was tried and found guilty in absentia and a no bond warrant was issued in the amount of one million dollars. Al Momani was sentenced in absentia and will be facing thirty-two years of incarceration. Deputy U.S. Marshals in Illinois worked tirelessly with various state and local agencies uncovering new leads in the case and in the process received an anonymous call stating Al Momani was possibly residing in Magdalena, Sonora, Mexico. Deputy U.S. Marshals in Tucson began working with law enforcement personnel in Mexico to identify and locate Al Momani. He was ultimately located and detained without incident in Nogales, Sonora by Mexican law enforcement officials. Deputy U.S. Marshals took custody of

Al Momani at the U.S. Port of Entry in Nogales and transported him to the Santa Cruz County Jail where he will await his extradition back to the State of Illinois.

United States Marshal for the District of Arizona, David Gonzales, said, "I am grateful to our law enforcement partners in Mexico for arresting Al Momani and turning him over to the U.S. Marshals. Al Momani sexually assaulted an incapacitated young woman in Illinois, fled and for three years attempted to avoid justice. Thanks to our Mexican counter parts, we can begin to bring closure."

Additional links for related information:

<http://www.news-gazette.com/news/courts-police-and-fire/2011-01-13/urbana-man-convicted-rape-despite-absence-trial.html>

<http://www.news-gazette.com/news/courts-police-and-fire/2010-01-07/urbana-man-accused-criminal-sexual-assault.html>

http://illinoishomepage.net/fulltext?nxd_id=207446

The federal, state, and local agencies that comprise the Arizona WANTED Violent Offender Task Force (Tucson Metro Division) include: U.S. Marshals Service; Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Arizona Department of Public Safety; Pima County Adult Probation Office; Arizona Department of Corrections; Tucson Police Department; U.S. Border Patrol; Pima County Sheriff's Department; and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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