



NEWS RELEASE

May 7, 2014
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Woman Sentenced to 12 Years in Prison for Pimping Teenaged Girl

An Aurora woman was sentenced to 12 years in prison Wednesday for pimping and assault of an 18-year-old woman who was held and forced to engage in acts of prostitution over a three-week period in January 2011.

Misty Dawn Harris (DOB 09/19/79) was sentenced to 6 years in prison for pimping (F3) and 6 years for second-degree assault (F4). Harris, Brandon Brown (DOB 05/29/83) and Whitney Buckman (DOB 12/03/87) were arrested after the victim told authorities that she had been held against her will, beaten and forced to perform acts of prostitution after she came to Denver from Colorado Springs.

Brown previously pleaded guilty to felony menacing (F5) and was sentenced to five years in prison. Buckman previously pleaded guilty to third-degree assault (M1) and was sentenced to two years in jail. Harris was convicted of pimping and assault by an Adams County jury in February.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Patrick Costigan told the court that Harris was the one who beat the victim, broke her nose and drove her to more than 30 locations for prostitution for which the victim never received a dime.

"The victim was dehumanized, tortured and basically made into a slave," Costigan told the court. "Her head was bashed into a wall, she was whipped with a belt and forced to roll around naked in the mud for not getting enough money. In 10 years as a prosecutor, I have never seen a human being treated like this."

Adams County District Judge Jill Ellyn Straus said the case "is one of the most disturbing that I have dealt with in three decades because it was so incredibly cruel. "

"No one should have to endure what this young woman did," District Attorney Dave Young did. "The community is a safer place with this defendant in prison."

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