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Victim “Thankful” for Plea Agreement; Avoids Re-Victimization

November 12, 2014-Tamuning, Guam –In Judge Cenzon’s Courtroom, the victim in *The People v. Sioram Chen* took a brief moment to speak to the Court. Through her tears and quiet sobbing, she said “I agree to the terms of the plea agreement, and I am very thankful.”

The case, which was originally scheduled for jury selection and trial, resulted in a finalized plea agreement after Soriam Chen pled guilty to second degree criminal sexual conduct as a first degree felony.

In March, Chen and his victim were at an afternoon gathering where both consumed alcoholic beverages. After some time, the victim left the gathering on foot. Chen followed her, dragged her into the bushes, and sexually assaulted her.

Today, after the court hearing, public information officer for the Office of the Attorney General, Carlina Charfauros, met with the victim.

“Today, I want to thank the Court and the People; justice has been served and I am very happy,” she said.

“I hid my hurt inside because I was scared. God has given me courage to come forward for myself and other women and ladies out there. I hope they will do the same thing I did today,” she continued.

“I am thankful and blessed that I am able to use my voice today...He isn’t going to get away. Now I can move on with my future.”

Chen will spend 10 years imprisoned at the Department of Corrections and mandatory 3 years’ probation thereafter. He must also register as a Level I sex offender and pay a \$100 fine and court costs.

“This victim was very brave and courageous. She spoke with strength and dignity when she addressed the Court. I am glad that through this plea agreement, we were able to avoid her reliving the trauma and victimization of her experience,” said Attorney General Leonardo M. Rapadas.

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