

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Armed Robber Ties Victims To Chair With Duct Tape, Electrical Wire; Escapes With Cash

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Ernice Gilbert **November 12, 2014**



Two female employees at the Kokopelli Café, located in Market Square East, St. Thomas, were tied to chairs with duct tape and electrical wire on Monday morning as an armed robber stole bags of money before exiting through the cafe's backdoor, according to a press release issued Wednesday by police spokesperson Melody Rames.

The incident took place around 7:15 Monday morning, just after the cafe opened its doors. One victim told police a male, wearing a beige knit hat over his face, approached and threatened her with a silver gun. The suspect then moved to restrain the employee in a chair with duct tape.

A second employee entered the store for work, but the suspect immediately forced her to open a safe where he took three bank bags, and forced the shaken employee to unlock the café's backdoor. When the employee had opened the door, the suspect also restrained her to a chair using electrical wire, as well as disabled the store's surveillance camera, took one of the victim's cellphone and escaped with the bags of money and stolen items.

Detectives of the Criminal Investigation Bureau are following up on this case and ask anyone with information to call 712-6030, 712-6077, 911 or Crime Stoppers USVI at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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