

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Herman Hill Man Held Hostage In Own Home Beaten And Robbed At Gunpoint

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ST. CROIX -- VIPD Public Information Officer Kevin Jackson on Saturday issued a press release detailing an incident in Herman Hill so brazen that it could be taken straight out of a movie scene. But it happened on this island on the night of Friday, August 28, leaving the victim beaten and robbed of cash, \$8,000 in jewelry and his pickup truck, which the criminals made away with following the crime.

According to Jackson, at about 7:58 p.m. on Friday, officers were dispatched by the 911 emergency call center to a residence located in Estate Hermon Hill, in response to a report of a burglary. Responding officers arrived at the home and met with the victim, who said he'd sought the assistance of a neighbor after having been held hostage in his

home for close to an hour.

The victim said he was at his home packing his belongings when he was suddenly placed in a choke-hold and told not to move. Thinking it was one of the individuals who was helping him pack earlier playing a prank; he attempted to pull the person's arm from around his neck and was struck on the head with a hard object, later identified as a gun.

The victim stated that a masked man brandishing a gun entered the home and a third male voice was heard. At that point, a towel was thrown over his head, his mobile phone removed from his pocket, and his arms and legs restrained with duct tape as the criminals sat him on a chair, demanding money and firearms.

The men then unrestrained the victim as he led the trio to cash and firearms that he had within the home. Shortly thereafter, he heard the engine of his pickup truck start and left the driveway. The victim stated that in addition to the cash and firearms, the men took approximately \$8,000 dollars' worth of jewelry.

The victim was treated for a laceration to the head by emergency medical technicians who were called to the scene, but was unable to provide the officers with a description of the suspects.

The incident is under investigation by the Criminal Investigation Bureau.