

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Police Arrest Man Accused Of Assaulting And Strangling Girlfriend, Beating Tourist

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ST. THOMAS -- The V.I.P.D. on Thursday arrested a man police have accused of assaulting and strangling his girlfriend, as well as beating a tourist in a separate incident, Sakeeda Freeman, the force's media specialist announced over the weekend.

The suspect, 40-year-old Oscar Eduardo Illescas-Gomez of Hull Bay, was charged with third-degree assault for the incident involving his girlfriend, which occurred on January 15, 2017, according to Ms. Freeman. He was also levied with a separate assault charge after officers from the Economic Crime Unit positively identified Mr. Illescas-Gomez as the person who assaulted a female tourist on December 29, 2016, while she was vacationing at a local hotel.

The assault took place on the beach, and the victim sustained a broken nose, several lacerations to her face and contusions to her jaw, according to police. Mr. Illescas-Gomez was remanded to the Bureau of Corrections pending his advise-of-rights hearing, after failing to make bail of \$25,000.

Police are asking anyone with additional information about these incidents to contact the V.I.P.D. at 340-774-2211, or the Economic Crime Unit at 340-774-3942. "The information you provide continues to assist in reducing crime within the territory and leads to the arrest of the individuals responsible for senseless crimes," reads the release.

You can also send in your tip through Crime Stoppers USVI, where the information you provide [may result in thousands of dollars in reward money to you.](#)