

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Croix Man Sentenced to 36 Months In Federal Prison After Being Turned In By His Mother For Firearm Possession

Crime / **Published On September 21, 2019 11:51 AM /**

Staff **September 21, 2019**



United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert announced Friday that Sergio Rijo-Feliz, 27, of St. Croix, was sentenced to 36 months of incarceration for possession of a firearm while under indictment by District Court Judge Wilma A. Lewis on Thursday. Judge Lewis also ordered Rijo-Feliz to pay a fine in the amount of \$1,000.00, to supervised release for three years and to pay a special assessment of \$100.00.

According to a plea agreement, and documents filed with the court, on October 2, 2018 Rijo-Feliz's mother entered the Marshal Command Police Station, Christiansted and

reported that she found a firearm in his backpack which was in her car. She had just dropped Rijo-Feliz off at the Superior Court in Kingshill to sign in with the Probation Office.

After discovering the firearm, she drove away while Rijo-Feliz was still at the courthouse. A subsequent search of the backpack revealed a 9mm Sturm Ruger handgun with one live round in the chamber and twenty live rounds in the attached magazine. An extended magazine with thirty 9mm live cartridges was also found inside the backpack along with a black ski mask, black wallet with a driver's license and other ID's belonging to Rijo-Feliz. Subsequent to his arrest, Rijo-Feliz admitted ownership and possession of the firearm.

At the time of the search, Rijo-Feliz was facing charges of third-degree assault and possession of a firearm during a violent crime in the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands. He had no license to possess a firearm in the Virgin Islands.

The case was investigated by the Virgin Islands Police Department and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Alphonso Andrews, Jr.