

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Man Banned From Visiting Store After Allegedly Assaulting Manager

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Staff Consortium **January 03, 2022**



The story will be updated with a mugshot of the suspect once provided by the V.I.P.D.

ST. THOMAS — A man has been prohibited from entering a business establishment at Kronprindsens Gade after he allegedly assaulted the store manager.

Filmon Haile was charged with simple assault and disturbance of the peace after officers were dispatched to the establishment on Wednesday night. Upon arrival, they made contact with the store manager who said that Haile, who he had never seen before in his life, approached him aggressively.

The victim said he walked away to avoid confrontation but Haile approached him again, this time raising his middle finger to his face and verbally swearing at him. The man told police that he continued to walk away but felt something hit the back of his head. He then turned only to realize that Haile had slapped him. The victim says Haile began to square up as if he was ready to fight in the middle of the store.

The victim then asked Haile "what is your problem," and Haile responded by punching him to the upper portion of his body causing injuries. Upon observing the scene the cashier intervened and tried to control Haile. The responding officer later viewed surveillance footage of the incident and Haile was placed under arrest after being identified by the victim.

The officer noted that the victim sustained a minor laceration to his lip. Unable to post bail in the amount of \$500, Haile was detained at the Bureau of Corrections.

At an advisement hearing on Friday, Judge Paula Norkaitis set Haile's bail at \$1000 with no 10 % provision. She noted that the defendant is considered a flight risk as little is known about his criminal history and his ties to the territory. Haile must not leave the jurisdiction without prior court permission and must submit all travel documents to the court. He has been banned from going to the store where the alleged incident took place and must maintain a distance of at least 20 feet from the victim at all times.