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Shoreview-based property developer convicted on four of five sex assaults

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by **Kristine Goodrich**
Staff Writer

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ST. PAUL — A Shoreview man accused of sexually assaulting five women was convicted of four counts of criminal sexual conduct.

Maksud Mahbub, 36, reportedly picked up intoxicated women at Minneapolis bars and brought them to his Shoreview home where he raped or molested them in 2008 and 2009. Several victims reported he took or disabled their cell phones so they couldn't call for help.

On March 9, a Ramsey County jury convicted him of three counts of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct and one count of third-degree criminal sexual conduct. He was found not guilty on another third-degree charge.

Sentencing is scheduled for April 20.

According to the criminal complaints:

The first woman to come forward reported she was intoxicated at a bar and next remembered waking up in a car driven by Mahbub. The woman said she tried to make a call but her cell phone didn't work. She said Mahbub took her to his home where she fell asleep and awoke as he raped her.

Sheriff investigators used taxi service records and requests in the media to find four other victims:

- A woman said she met Mahbub at a bar and agreed to go with him to his home where he said he was having a party. There was no party. She said she fell asleep, he molested her and took her phone.
- A woman said she met Mahbub at a bar and awoke at Mahbub's house where he raped her and photographed her.
- A woman reported Mahbub offered her a ride home but instead took her to his home. She said she protested but he wouldn't let her out of the vehicle. He took her phone and when he returned it, it didn't work. She said she then passed out and awoke when he molested her.
- A woman said she blacked out at a bar and awoke at Mahbub's house where he was molesting her. He took her phone but later gave it back, she said.

According to media reports, Mahbub's defense claimed the sex was consensual and he didn't touch the other alleged victims.

In a press release, Ramsey County Attorney John Choi lauded prosecutor Yasmin Mullings, victim advocate Kelly Kegley and the victims for coming forward.

"It is not easy for victims of sexual assaults to come forward and report them under any circumstances," Choi said. "Our office feels an obligation to prosecute these cases and allow these victims to bring their stories before a jury for just consideration when we believe there is sufficient evidence to do so."

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