



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: August 8, 2011  
Contact: Brielle Nalence  
212-627-9895

## **NYPD Cop Acquitted of Rape Gets the Max for Official Misconduct Conviction NOW-NYC Members Gather at Court House in Support of Victim**

New York – After over a month-long delay, Justice Gregory Carro sentenced ex-NYPD cop Kenneth Moreno to the maximum sentence of 1 year in prison for three convictions of official misconduct. Ex-officer Franklin Mata is expected to be sentenced on Wednesday. Both were convicted of entering a New York City resident’s apartment over and over again throughout the night of December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – never getting permission from their precinct supervisor and lying about their location.

NOW-NYC Executive Director Sonia Ossorio says, “I commend Judge Carro for taking this case seriously and holding Moreno accountable for the gross misconduct and violation of the public trust that he was convicted of committing. There is some semblance of justice in seeing Moreno led away in handcuffs for his crimes. However, the fact that these officers were acquitted of rape in the face of enormous evidence against them remains a bruise on our criminal justice system. My heart goes out to the victim, who had the courage to come forward. I hope she knows that her case has inspired the women of New York to stand up against this injustice and make sure this doesn’t happen again.”

NOW-NYC members and anti-violence advocates, wearing red, held signs across from the court house this morning in solidarity with the victim and to call on the court to “Take Rape Seriously.” Late last week, NOW-NYC delivered a petition to the judge with 2,500 signatures calling for the maximum sentence for these two ex-cops. NOW-NYC Deputy Director Jean Bucaria says, “The Judge took the right step toward restoring the public trust that these cops so blatantly violated. Today he sent the message that it’s not okay for cops to abuse their authority.” The Judge’s remarks from the bench were notably harsh for the defendant, and he cited taking the defendant’s outright lies on the stand and the defendant’s position of authority as an ex-NYPD officer into consideration for sentencing.

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, the case galvanized the New York City community and women’s rights advocates when these two former officers were acquitted of rape by a jury of their peers. The verdict sparked a series of protests. Members of the New York City Council’s women’s caucus and NOW-NYC held a press conference at City Hall and hundreds of protesters gathered later that afternoon outside the court house to express their outrage. As Ossorio said, “Cases like this that appear to be such a travesty of justice—stay in the public conscience for a very long time. It affects the way we think about rape, and it affects the way women rape survivors think about pursuing justice.” She noted that these types of cases contribute to the fact that the majority of women who are raped never report it to authorities. Almost one out of every five women in the



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: August 8, 2011  
Contact: Brielle Nalence  
212-627-9895

U.S. has survived a rape or attempted rape. It's estimated that only 39% of rapes are ever reported and only 6% of rapists ever spend a day in jail.

Another rally, organized by a broad coalition of advocates including NOW-NYC, service providers, and survivors, was held near the court house in Foley Square on the morning of June 28<sup>th</sup>—the original date that sentencing was scheduled to take place. Deputy Director of NOW-NYC Jean Bucaria called on the NYPD and the Mayor to take action to restore the public trust, “You need to re-assure the women of this city that the police will protect them, because, right now, our faith has been shaken.” The coalition has united to call for broader accountability on violence against women, demanding the maximum sentence for Moreno and Mata and an end to sexual harassment by the NYPD.

Just last year, an alarming series in the *Village Voice* documented an outrageous scandal, uncovering that numerous police precincts engaged in a systemic practice of undercharging sex crime cases to make their crime stats look better. In one case covered by the series, an attempted rape was downgraded to forcible touching—taking a felony sex crime and turning it into a misdemeanor. Another article in the series cites that the practice enabled a man to commit six sexual assaults in Washington Heights in 2002 before being caught. In response, Commissioner Kelly convened a committee to study the matter. The department ultimately adopted the committee's recommendations to better handle sexual assault late last year, including referring all assaults to a Special Victims Division with specially trained detectives and adding investigators to the sex-crimes unit.

However, this case demonstrates that more needs to be done and struck a new chord with rape survivors, advocates and the general public, by exposing the fragility of our local criminal justice system. NOW-NYC has plans to continue working with the community on how these cases are handled—from the initial investigation to the final day in court.

The National Organization for Women is the nation's largest organization working to advance women's rights and improve women's lives. The New York City Chapter of NOW, founded in 1966, is the largest chapter in the country with 5,000 members locally and 35,000 statewide. NOW-NYC works to promote women's reproductive rights, secure women's economic empowerment, and end violence and discrimination against women.

###