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NEWS RELEASE

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Convicted Rapist Sentenced for Sexually Assaulting Women Who Accepted a Ride in His Car

A Van Nuys man was sentenced yesterday to 81 years to life in state prison for sexually assaulting two women who accepted a ride in his vehicle on separate occasions, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

On April 23, a jury found Enefiok Joseph Edem Jr., 35, guilty of one count of kidnapping to commit a sexual assault, sexual battery by restraint, forcible rape, assault with intent to commit a sexual crime and attempted forcible rape.

Deputy District Attorney David Nary said an allegation that Edem was convicted in 2008 of forcible rape also was found true.

On April 16, 2017, the defendant approached a woman waiting on a bus stop and offered her a ride, the prosecutor said. According to evidence presented in court, Edem then drove to another location and attempted to rape the victim who managed to escape.

The defendant also sexually assaulted another woman who accepted a ride in his vehicle on June 8, 2015. According to evidence presented in court, Edem was under GPS monitoring at the time of the assaults.

Case LA085808 was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department, Van Nuys Station.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.