



Wed June 2, 2010

currentweather

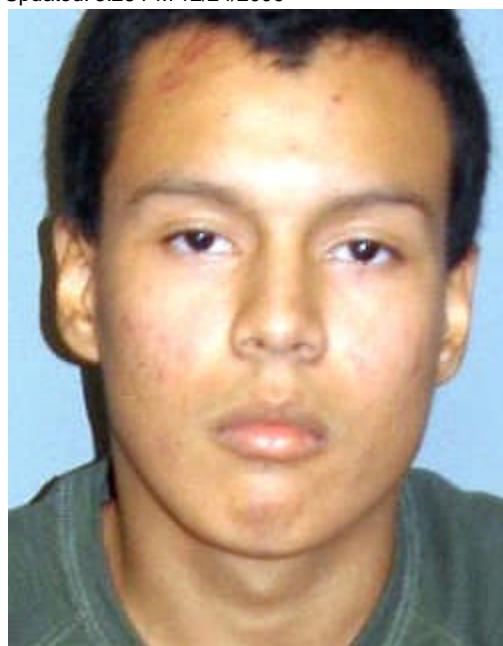
Currently: 87 °F / Scattered Clouds



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### Teen charged with sexually assaulting boy at park

By Juan Ortega and Tonya Alanez, Sun Sentinel  
Updated: 3:28 PM 12/24/2009



Rumaldo Frometa

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FORT LAUDERDALE --

A teenager accused of pretending to be a police officer and sexually assaulting a 9-year-old boy at a park will remain in custody for 21 days while prosecutors decide whether to charge him as an adult, a judge said Thursday.

Rumaldo Frometa, 17, of Fort Lauderdale, is charged with kidnapping, sexual battery on a child and impersonating an officer, according to the Broward Sheriff's Office.

He admitted the Monday afternoon crimes, authorities said.

Rumaldo Frometa, stoic in a dark-blue jumpsuit and with his wrists cuffed to a belly chain, appeared before Circuit Judge Merrilee Ehrlich. The judge set Frometa's next court hearing for Jan. 11 as a Spanish interpreter explained the court proceedings to Frometa's grandmother and legal guardian, Julia Contreras.

Frometa allegedly told the boy he was a police officer before he forced him into a portable toilet at Sunview Park at 1500 SW 42nd Ave., covered his mouth to prevent him from screaming and attacked him after 5 p.m. Monday while the boy's 7-year-old sister waited outside. Frometa then released the boy, authorities said.

Frometa, who lives several blocks southeast of Sunview Park, was arrested Wednesday night.

"This is a horrible, horrible situation for anybody to go through," said the suspect's brother, William Frometa, 19. "We're extremely sorry that [the victim and his family] had to go through this. We hope that in the long run ... he's able to one day, hopefully, overcome it."

Investigators, including an off-duty deputy, said community outrage spurred children and homeless people in the area to give them key information that identified Frometa as the suspect.

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