

Caught in the Tender Trap

“Coral Princess” waiter acquitted in sexual assault case

By Denise Nix Staff Writer-The LA Daily Breeze

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A jury has acquitted a Princess Cruises waiter on federal charges of sexually assaulting a passenger while at sea. Jorge Teixeira, 39, cried as the verdict was announced late Thursday in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, according to his attorney, Federal Public Defender Stephen Demik.

Messages left for prosecutors were not returned.

During the five-day trial before Judge George King at the Roybal Federal Building, the jurors heard from the alleged 42-year-old victim, who admitted she was "buzzed" at the time she said Teixeira attacked her.

Teixeira, a Portuguese national and a married father of two, met with the woman late on March 5 in a dimly lighted dining room to share a bottle of wine aboard the Coral Princess.

The next day, she accused him of forcing her to perform a sex act and attacking her, and he was held in his cabin until the ship ended its 14-day cruise from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to the Port of Los Angeles on March 9.

Teixeira was told by FBI agents that they had found biological evidence corroborating her claims under his fingernails and at the scene, and he was charged with six counts that carried the potential of a life sentence in prison.

However, during the trial, it was revealed that no such evidence was found.

Earlier this week, an FBI forensic DNA examiner testified that "possible" blood was found on his fingernail clippings and that the substance contained only Teixeira's DNA.

Tina Delgado also said Teixeira's underwear was tested, and one pair may have had a mixture of male and female DNA, but it was not enough to be tested.

FBI Special Agent Charles Gravis acknowledged he lied to Teixeira, but claimed that it is a fair interrogation tactic.

Demik said the jury also heard that the alleged victim has a lawsuit pending against the cruise line, and had retained an attorney even before she left the ship.

"I think she certainly had motivation to convince the jury because it would mean millions of dollars for her in her lawsuit," Demik said.

Teixeira, who has spent the last eight months in prison, is expected to fly home today.

"I think justice was done and I think that my client has a newfound respect for our country and its laws," Demik said.

"I'm just very grateful to the jurors because I think that they followed the law, and I think that they did the right thing."

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Posted by: Tony Spearman Los Angeles (myFOXla.com) -

A veteran headwaiter for a Princess Cruise Lines ship was acquitted of sexually assaulting a woman passenger while at sea.

Portuguese national Jorge Manuel Teixeira, 39, was found not guilty of aggravated sexual assault late Thursday by a federal jury in U.S. District Court in downtown Los Angeles.

Teixeira was accused of forcing a 42-year-old Kansas City woman to perform a sex act during a cruise last March between Fort Lauderdale and Los Angeles, while the ship was at sea off the coast of Mexico.

The woman testified that after drinking champagne at lunch and sharing a bottle of wine with Teixeira after dinner, she was "buzzed" the night of the alleged attack.

She said she had agreed to meet Teixeira for "a date" in one of the ship's restaurants at 11 p.m., after diners had left.

"He looked striking and was in good shape," she testified.

The two split a bottle of white wine, she told the federal jury.

"I am sure I was buzzed, but I did not feel out of control," she said. At some point, she alleged, the headwaiter forced her to perform a sex act.

Teixeira argued at trial that any sexual contact was entirely consensual.

Had he been convicted, Teixeira would have faced a potential life prison sentence.

The law is a bastard when it comes to sexual allegations, always takes the woman's word and makes a criminal out of the man long before any court case. It looks from the newspaper reports as though this poor sod who suckered into a scheme by this woman or she realized what a prize she might have the morning after.

Eight months in prison just on a woman's whim, framed by the FBI, most probably had the shit beaten out of him in prison, he will never get a job at sea again and in the Phillipine's there is no better job , his wife will most likely divorce him, all this on a lie and no hope of any recompense, ever.

What a bastard.

The "Coral Princess"

Owner: Carnival Corporation & plc

Operator: Princess Cruises

Port of registry: Hamilton, Bermuda

Builder: Chantiers de l'Atlantique

Cost: US\$330 million

Launched: 2002

Status: In service

General characteristics

Tonnage: 91,627 gross tons

Length: 964 feet (294 m)

Decks: 16

Capacity: 1,970 passengers

Crew: 900



The more normal hazard at sea.

