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**MAN SENTENCED TO 24 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR ASSAULTING
A FEDERAL COURT SECURITY OFFICER**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that RODOLPHE NOGBOU was sentenced this morning by United States District Judge JOHN F. KEENAN in Manhattan federal court to 24 months in prison for assaulting a Court Security Officer working at the Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse. On January 11, 2008, following a four-day jury trial in Manhattan federal court, NOGBOU was found guilty of one count of assaulting a federal officer in the performance of his official duties. According to the evidence at trial and documents filed in this case:

On August 22, 2007, at approximately 12:15 p.m., NOGBOU entered the Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse at 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York (the "Courthouse"), at the Worth Street entrance. Upon entering the building, NOGBOU, like all visitors to the Courthouse, was directed toward the security checkpoint. NOGBOU activated the metal detector as he walked through it. As a result, the defendant underwent a supplemental security check, performed by a Court Security Officer using a handheld metal detector. The purpose of this supplemental check was to determine what had activated the metal detector and to ensure that NOGBOU was not possessing any unauthorized items, including any weapons or explosives.

As the officer attempted to search NOGBOU using the handheld metal detector, the detector went off near NOGBOU's waist area. NOGBOU raised his arms and struck the officer, with a clenched fist, near the officer's left eye, resulting in a laceration which necessitated stitches at a local medical facility.

Court Security Officers working at the Courthouse are employed by an independent contractor, and receive an oath of

special deputation, working at the direction of the United States Marshal. As such, Court Security Officers are sworn Special Deputies of the United States Marshals Service. Court Security Officers perform a variety of security duties, including conducting security screening at the public entrances to the courthouse.

When imposing the sentence, Judge KEENAN stated, "The defendant assaulted a federal officer who was charged with the serious responsibility of maintaining security at this Courthouse. The importance of the security duties of CSOs [Court Security Officers] cannot be overstated. . . [T]he job of a CSO is to maintain the security of the building and its perimeter. In particular, the defendant assaulted [the CSO] as he was conducting a search for weapons, any kind of parts of weapons, parts of bombs, or anything that would be suspicious. . . Such behavior cannot be countenanced and it would be an affront to the concept of justice to give a sentence less than I am imposing."

In addition to the 24 month prison term, United States District Judge JOHN F. KEENAN ordered NOGBOU to serve a term of 3 years of supervised release.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative work of the United States Marshals Service in this case.

Assistant United States Attorney JOHN P. CRONAN is in charge of the prosecution.

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