

Police arrest man suspected in a dozen sex assaults in D.C.

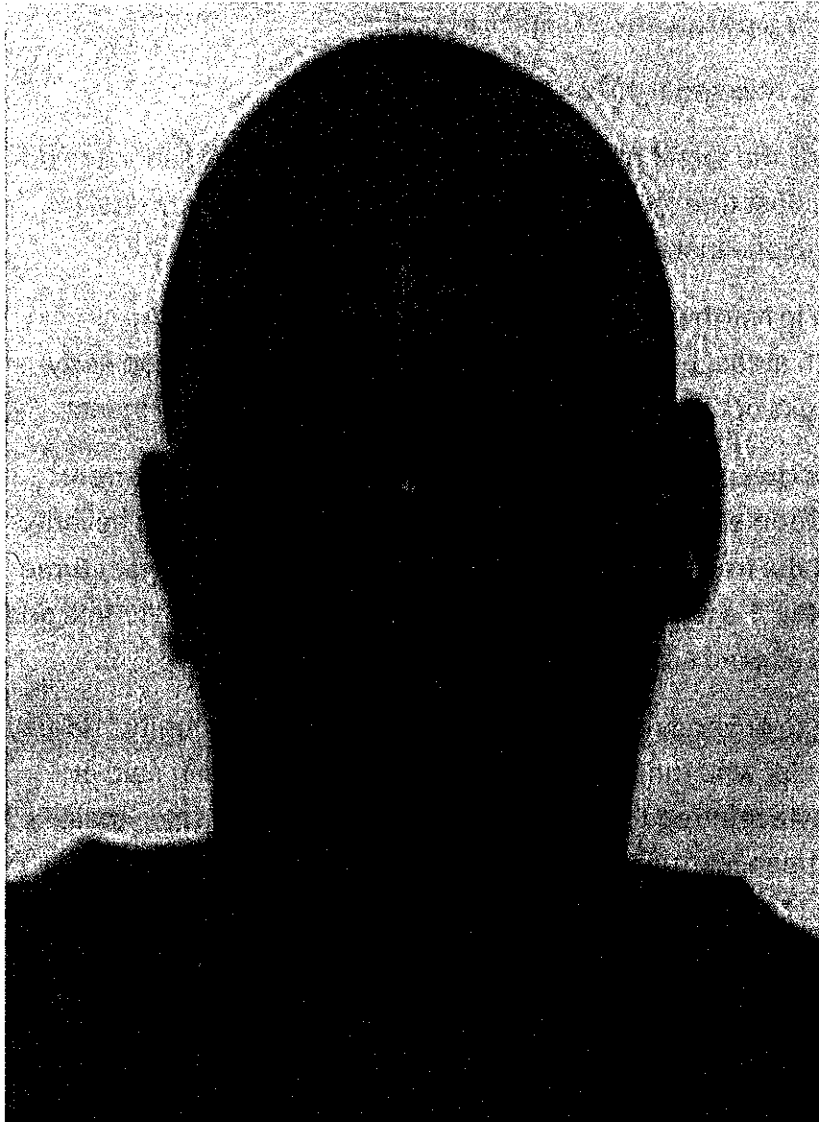
Story by Peter Hermann, Keith L. Alexander 11/21/2024

D.C. police announced Thursday the arrest of a man they allege sexually abused at least a dozen random women over the past three years, many times at gunpoint, on streets, in alleys, in building lobbies, and in one instance, inside a victim's apartment.

The attacks were concentrated in Northwest Washington, many in and around the Columbia Heights and Petworth areas, police said, with incidents occurring in the early-morning hours. One of the attacks occurred in the Trinidad neighborhood in Northeast.

Police identified the suspect as Uwana Ubom, 35, of Northwest Washington. An arrest affidavit filed in D.C. Superior Court says Ubom appeared "to be escalating in the severity of the offenses committed and the frequency in which he is offending," with the last three attacks occurring on Oct. 28, Nov. 1 and Nov. 3, Ubom threatened to shoot the victims and became more aggressive in the alleged sex abuse acts, police said.

"His arrest serves as a warning to anybody considering preying on our community," Ramey Kyle, an assistant D.C. police chief who runs the investigative services bureau, said at a [news conference](#) Thursday. Kyle referred to the victims as "survivors" and said "their bravery in coming forward has been instrumental in bringing justice."



D.C. police have charged Uwana Ubom, 35, with a dozen counts of sex abuse and assault, alleging a string of attacks over three years. Police say he may have committed additional attacks and are urging people who believe to be victims to come forward. © D.C. police

In charging documents filed in D.C. Superior Court, prosecutors described Ubom as “a serial sexual predator.”

At a court hearing Thursday, his court-appointed attorney argued the evidence against her client was “circumstantial” and questioned the strength of the prosecution’s case, saying no one had identified Ubom as their attacker. A magistrate judge ordered him held at the D.C. jail until his next hearing Monday.

Authorities said Ubom was arrested on 12 charges involving varying degrees of sexual abuse and assault. Prosecutors said they are investigating 15 sexual assaults involving

Ubom dating back to 2021 and that six of them involve the same DNA, although that DNA match as of yet has not been linked to Ubom. Prosecutors also said four of the cases were tied Ubom after his cellphone was linked to the area where the attacks occurred. Prosecutors says Ubom used a handgun in seven of the attacks. Police found a 9mm, semiautomatic handgun in his bedroom at his mother's home in Northwest Washington, court records show.

During an interview with detectives Wednesday after his arrest, Ubom denied raping anyone, according to court documents, including a transgender woman who police said he attacked in a Northwest Washington alley in June.

Police said they believe Ubom may be linked to additional cases, and they took the unusual move of publishing his mug shot to see if other women recognize him. By policy, the department does not release mug shots unless there are extenuating circumstances.

The string of attacks Ubom is charged with began in June 2021, when police allege he forced his way into an apartment on Georgia Avenue in Petworth and had forced sexual contact with a woman. Another attack occurred that same month on Irving Street near MedStar Washington Hospital Street in Northwest Washington, police said.

The remainder of the attacks, police said, occurred between April and Nov 3. In some cases, police allege Ubom shoved women to the ground and forcefully touched or kissed them, or attempted to. Other times, police said he pressed a firearm against the victims' bodies to force compliance, such as one instance in October near Logan Circle. In later attacks, police allege Ubom used more force, including removing his and the victims' clothing and committing sex acts.

At least once, police said, he is accused of offering a woman a ride and then sexually abusing her at gunpoint. One attack occurred in the lobby of a victim's apartment building; another happened inside an elevator at a different apartment building, police said.

The arrest affidavit says detectives linked six of the cases through DNA testing of saliva and clothing, such as a hat, left behind at once scene. Police also said groups of attacks occurred in the same areas of the city, and involved the same vehicle, a gray Chevrolet Malibu. Police also said they linked Ubom using cellphone tracking and video surveillance. Charging documents also described the vehicle as black.

Kyle said that while the sexual assaults had been investigated since the summer of 2021, Ubom became a suspect only in the past two weeks. "Each case is a puzzle piece we used to connect to the larger case," Kyle said.

DC serial rape suspect arrested after attacks on school custodian, hairdresser

The victims include a woman visiting her friend's grave in Suitland, a school custodian doing her job on Douglass Street SE and a hairstylist asleep in her bed in Mount Vernon Square

By [Aimee Cho, News4 reporter](#) • Published February 16, 2024 • Updated on February 16, 2024 at 4:26 pm

D.C. police say they arrested a serial rapist who attacked multiple women over the course of 14 years.

John Raymond Conner is accused of attacking women starting as far back as 2009, tying up victims at knifepoint, police say. The Northeast D.C. resident was arrested this week and charged in two cases. His lawyer declined comment.

The victims include a woman visiting her friend's grave, a school custodian doing her job and a hairstylist asleep in her bed.

Court documents reveal upsetting details. A woman who was visiting her best friend's grave in Suitland, Maryland, told police a stranger blindfolded her, forced her into the woods at knifepoint and raped her.

DNA from the case matched Conner in 2012. But the Prince George's County State's Attorney declined to prosecute, citing inconsistent statements from the alleged victim.

In August 2009, an elementary school custodian was at work on Douglass Street SE when Conner came in and raped her at knifepoint, police say.

In December of that year, investigators say he punched, strangled and raped his pregnant girlfriend. Court documents say he was angry that she wanted an abortion.

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Conner entered a plea in court for sexual abuse and kidnapping and was sentenced to four years.

Fourteen years later, in April 2023, court documents say Conner got his hair cut at an apartment in Mount Vernon Square. Investigators say he raped his hairdresser at knifepoint on and off for seven hours.

Conner was recently charged with the attacks on the custodian and hairdresser.

Court documents say it often took months for rape kits to be tested. Investigators eventually used DNA evidence to connect all the cases.

Conner is due in court for a preliminary hearing next week.

