

NEW BEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



871 ROCKDALE AVENUE · NEW BEDFORD, MA · 02740 · WWW.NEWBEDFORDPD.COM

P R E S S R E L E A S E

(PR - 08 - 26)

For Immediate Release

July 23, 2008

Lieutenant Jeffrey P. Silva

See Also: 2008-12979

Public Information Officer

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MAN CHARGED WITH ONE RAPE MAY HAVE ATTEMPTED OTHERS

New Bedford, Massachusetts – New Bedford Police Detective Chris Cotter arrested Eddie COUTO (07/09/1979) of 93 Swift Street in New Bedford and charged him with RAPE and KIDNAPPING Sunday night after he was identified by a woman who reported that he had attacked her just hours earlier.

A (27) year old female from New Bedford called the New Bedford Police Department Sunday evening and reported that she was walking on Ashley Boulevard towards her North End home when a male, later identified as COUTO, pulled alongside her in a black, Ford F-150 pickup truck and offered her a ride to get out of the oppressive heat. The female accepted the invitation and assumed that COUTO was a good samaritan. Shortly after getting into the truck however, COUTO headed in the opposite direction of where he had agreed to take the victim and drove to a nearby cemetery where he forcibly raped her.

The woman reported that she tried to escape after the initial attack and ran from COUTO's vehicle while it was still in the cemetery, however she said that COUTO chased after her, tackled her to the ground, punched her in the face, and dragged her back into his truck. COUTO later drove the victim to a central location in the North End of New Bedford and let her out of the truck. Upon hearing the physical description of the suspect and a description of his pickup truck, an alert New Bedford Police Officer, Officer George Borden, identified Eddie COUTO as a potential suspect. Armed with that information, Detective Chris Cotter placed COUTO's photograph among several others and showed them to the victim. Once the victim saw COUTO's picture, she immediately identified him as her attacker and he was arrested shortly thereafter at his Swift Street residence in New Bedford.

Further investigation and interviews have revealed that other women, particularly some commercial sex workers, have indicated that COUTO has either forced or attempted to force himself upon them in the past. Based on these allegations, the New Bedford Police Department is concerned that there *could* be other victims that have either not come forward or who also *may have been* attacked by COUTO but did not know his identity.

If anyone has any further information about COUTO or was a victim or witness to any crimes that also may have been committed by him, please contact the New Bedford Police Department at 508.991.6300, our TIP LINE at **508-99-CRIME** or our website at www.newbedfordpd.com.



New Bedford Police

Media Report

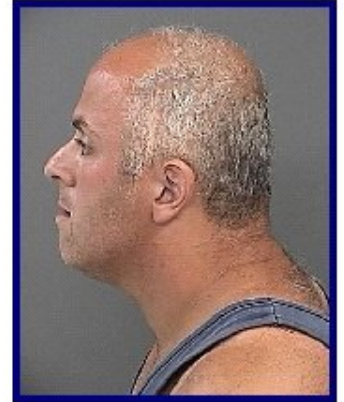
PERSONS FILE Number: 042686

Name: **COUTO, EDDIE**



Photo Date: 7/21/2008

Race: WHITE
 DOB: 07/09/1969
 Age: 39
 SSN: 017-66-5843
 Sex: MALE
 Eyes: BROWN
 Hair: GRAY
 Height: 73 INCHES
 Weight: 235 LBS



Last known Address: 93 SWIFT ST

NEW BEDFORD MA 02740

Parole or Probation?:

