

## **Man released on DNA evidence**

### **Imprisoned for 17 years on rape conviction**

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**DECATUR, Georgia (AP) -- A man who spent 17 years in prison for the 1986 rape, kidnapping and robbery of a hospital worker was freed Tuesday after DNA evidence cleared him.**

Clarence Harrison, 44, was sentenced to life in prison in 1987 on charges of sexually assaulting the woman as she waited for a bus.

A DNA test of the rape kit used as evidence in the case showed Harrison did not commit the rape.

A motion for a new trial was filed on Harrison's behalf last week by lawyers from the Georgia Innocence Project; DeKalb County prosecutors did not object.

Judge Cynthia Beker granted the request Tuesday -- and then dismissed the charges.

"All we know for sure is the culprit is not Mr. Harrison," said John Petrey, chief assistant district attorney.

According to a police report, the 25-year-old victim, who worked at Grady Memorial Hospital, was standing at a bus stop when a man walked up, struck her in the face and said, "If you scream, I'll kill you right here." He walked her to a wooded area and repeatedly raped and sodomized her, the report said.

The attacker took her money and watch and knocked out two front teeth.

The woman initially identified Harrison from a photographic lineup and later identified him at the trial.

The Georgia Innocence Project, founded two years ago, has received letters from more than 1,400 inmates seeking to have their convictions overturned. The project has six open cases and is investigating more than 250 others.

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