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## RIVER VALE MAN ACQUITTED OF KIDNAPPING GIRLFRIEND

**Author(s):** KIBRET MARKOS, STAFF WRITER

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A River Vale man has been acquitted on charges that he kidnapped his former girlfriend and assaulted her inside a house in Westwood four years ago. Police said at the time of [REDACTED] arrest in February 2007 that he took [REDACTED] to the Sand Road home of an acquaintance and subjected her to physical abuse.

They also said a 17-year-old resident of the house confronted [REDACTED] and endured a beating so Leung could escape.

[REDACTED] attorney, **Michael Beatrice**, told jurors during a trial in Superior Court in Hackensack that Leung was in the house voluntarily and left voluntarily.

He added that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who were 18 and 19 at the time, respectively, have since married and remain married.

Jurors in Superior Court in Hackensack mostly sided with Beatrice in what seemed like a compromise verdict on Friday, finding [REDACTED] not guilty of kidnapping, criminal restraint and aggravated assault.

They found him guilty of false imprisonment and a disorderly-persons offense, and were deadlocked on a charge of making terroristic threats.

"The jury thoroughly rejected the prosecutor's theory and the testimony of [REDACTED]," Beatrice said.

Karen Gwynn, the assistant Bergen County prosecutor who tried the case, said she was satisfied with the conviction on the lesser charge.

Beatrice said he will file a motion to have the remaining charges dismissed. A hearing on that motion is scheduled for April 29.

E-mail: [markos@northjersey.com](mailto:markos@northjersey.com)

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