

Immigration and Customs Enforcement



Footage of investigators' interview with Audemio Orozco-Ramirez shows him handcuffed while Jefferson County sheriff's detectives and Immigration and Customs Enforcement supervisory detention and deportation officer Bruce Norum ask him questions. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Man alleges rape while in ICE custody

Detainee says fellow inmates assaulted him at Jefferson County Jail

By John S. Adams
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Audemio Orozco-Ramirez, left, through an interpreter, tells a reporter that he was sexually assaulted while being held in the Jefferson County Jail. TRIBUNE PHOTO/JOHN S. ADAMS

HELENA — A Mexican national who was in the process of being deported from the United States said he was raped by fellow cellmates while he was detained last month at the Jefferson County Jail.

Alleged victim Audemio Orozco-Ramirez, 40, detailed his ordeal in an exclusive interview with the Tribune a day after being released from Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody Oct. 16. The Tribune does not normally publish the names of rape victims out of privacy concerns; however, Orozco-Ramirez waived all confidentiality in the matter and said he wanted to go public with his story.

"I want people to know what happened to me, and I want the people responsible to be punished," Orozco-Ramirez said through an interpreter. "I don't want anyone else to ever have to go through what I went through."

Orozco-Ramirez said he also wants his alleged assailant or assailants identified and tested for sexually transmitted diseases so he knows what he might have been exposed to.

A national immigrants' rights group on Friday filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties detailing the alleged assault. The National Immigrant Justice Center asked the federal agency to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident and implement reforms to prevent future attacks from occurring.

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