



Orange County News

For Immediate Release
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District Attorney Hoovler Announces State Prison Sentence In Possession of Forged Instrument Case

*Defendant who Absconded during Trial Sentenced in Absentia
to 4 2/3 to 14 Years in State Prison*

Defendant Now Wanted For Bail Jumping

Orange County District Attorney David M. Hoovler announced that on Thursday, April 28, 2017, Kodjo Kondon, 30, of Poughkeepsie, was sentenced by Orange County Court Judge Craig Stephen Brown to two consecutive sentences of 2 1/3 to 7 years in state prison on each of the two counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree that he was convicted after trial of having committed. Kondon was also sentenced to one year in the Orange County Jail on the charge of Resisting Arrest. By operation of law the one year sentence merges with the state prison sentences so that Kondon must serve 4 2/3 to 14 years in state prison. Kondon was not present in court when the sentence was rendered.

Kondon had been found guilty by Orange County jury on February 21, 2017, of having committed two counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree and one count of Resisting Arrest following a jury trial which had commenced on February 14, 2017. Kondon, who had posted \$10,000 bail, failed to appear in court for the continuance of the trial on Friday, February 17, 2017. A warrant was issued for Kondon's arrest. The court had previously warned Kondon that if he failed to return to court he could be convicted and sentenced in absentia.

In addition to the charges for which Kondon has already been sentenced, he is also wanted in connection with an arrest warrant charging him with the felony of Bail Jumping in the Second Degree. The District Attorney's Office is requesting the public's help in locating Kondon. Anyone with information regarding Kondon is urged to call the Orange County District Attorney's Office at (845) 291-2050. Kondon faces an additional 1 1/3 to 4 years in state prison if convicted of Bail Jumping in the Second Degree.

On July 18, 2016, Kondon attempted to obtain a loan at the Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union located in the Town of New Windsor. Kondon was attempting to obtain the loan in an assumed name using a forged South Carolina driver's license. When the Town of New Windsor Police were summoned, Kondon struck a Town of New Windsor Police sergeant and fled. He was apprehended nearby and was found to also be in possession of a forged Illinois driver's license in yet another false name. Kondon was convicted after a jury trial which commenced on February 14, 2017.

District Attorney Hoovler thanked the Town of New Windsor Police Department for their assistance in the arrest and investigation of the case.

"This defendant's repeated failure to abide by the law has only subjected him to greater punishment," said District Attorney Hoovler. "This defendant should have complied with the lawful orders of the Town of New Windsor Police, rather than resisting arrest. After his futile attempt to fraudulently obtain a loan using forged documents was thwarted, the defendant's attempt to flee the police and evade justice by absconding during the trial only resulted in him receiving an enhanced sentence. If convicted he now he faces additional punishment in connection with his failure to return to court."

District Attorney Hoovler highly commended Assistant District Attorney Eric Parker who prosecuted the case.

A criminal charge is merely an allegation that a defendant has committed a violation of the criminal law, and it is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the State of New York's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

