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## False Charges By Woman Culminate In Her Arrest

By LYNETTE HOLLOWAY

A homeless woman who had accused 13 men of rape, robbery and larceny over the last six years was arrested yesterday and charged with making up the crimes, the transit police said.

One of the accused men received a 90-day jail term, the transit police said.

The woman, Deborah Ford, 36 years old, was charged with 21 counts of falsely filing criminal complaints in incidents, including three in the subway, that date back to Sept. 25, 1986, said a transit police spokesman, Albert W. O'Leary. It was the second case of false allegations of subway crimes in two weeks, he said.

The transit police determined that Ms. Ford was lying Friday afternoon after she told an officer, who was standing outside the subway station at Christopher Street in lower Manhattan, that a man had raped her, Mr. O'Leary said. The man was promptly taken into custody.

"But during questioning, it became apparent that something was not right and she admitted that the crime report was in fact bogus," Mr. O'Leary said. "She even admitted that she had made many of these types of claims in the past."

The suspect was released. Ms. Ford was in custody Saturday night pending her arraignment on the charge. Mr. O'Leary said a man arrested Oct. 4 on a complaint from Ms. Ford remained in jail, although the transit police were moving to get him released. [Move Towards Release](#)

"One good thing about our criminal justice system is that as soon as information is received that a person does not belong in jail, we get them out," Mr. O'Leary said. Another man was in jail until yesterday on a robbery charge, when he was released.

In the worst case, one man with a lengthy criminal history received a 90-day jail term after pleading guilty to a bogus robbery charge, Mr. O'Leary said.

"This guy's a career criminal and has become very savvy about what helps him," Mr. O'Leary said. "That may be the reason he agreed to plead guilty. It's unclear."

It was not known yesterday whether the man was still in jail.

In a similar case, the transit police two weeks ago arrested a man for filing false complaints against 26 men who, the police said, accused young men of robbing him when they did not return his sexual advances.

The transit police said 10 young men were wrongly jailed based on the complaints of James Cooley, 25, an unemployed freight handler. Mr. O'Leary said a system of checking past complaints started after the Cooley case and led officers to look into whether Ms. Ford had a history of making complaints.

"Bringing false arrest accusations against someone is a crime," Mr. O'Leary said. "It's got to be; otherwise we'd have people running all over the place pointing out people and having them arrested."

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