

# NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray  
District Attorney

August 20, 2015

## Jury's guilty verdict sends rapist to prison for at least 50 years

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Clairry Kanyinda Mbaya, 26, will spend at least 50 years in prison for raping a 15-year-old girl in 2014. The trial, which ended today with a guilty verdict, began August 17, 2015, in courtroom 5150 before The Honorable Lisa C. Bell, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Persons Team tried Mbaya for 1) statutory rape, 2) statutory sex offense and 3) indecent liberties with a child. Today, the jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Bell sentenced Mbaya to two consecutive sentences of 300-420 months in prison each, totaling a minimum of 600 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, he must register as a sex offender and participate in satellite-based monitoring for the rest of his life.



Clairry Mbaya

In February 2014, the teenage victim was at home alone in Charlotte when Mbaya, wearing black clothing and a mask, entered the home and raped her. When a family member arrived at the home, the victim reported the assault and was taken to an area hospital, where a nurse collected DNA evidence from the victim. The DNA evidence matched that of Mbaya. GPS records, which were provided by the company that employed Mbaya as a limousine driver, showed that he was at the scene of the rape. When detectives sought to interview Mbaya, he fled the state and changed his appearance by cutting his hair.

The teenage victim showed strength and bravery beyond her years. Her testimony at trial was critical in prosecutors' efforts to ensure that the community will be protected from Mbaya. After the guilty verdict, she spoke to the court, thanking the Assistant District Attorneys who prosecuted the case, a DA's Office victim/witness legal assistant, Judge Bell and the jury for their work.

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda) and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.*

// End //