

## **RAPE SUSPECT CALLS HIS CONFESSIONS COERCED HE ASSERTS INNOCENCE OF EAST SIDE ASSAULTS**

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Samson Fee Koger, charged in the **rapes** of nine women on Detroit's east side, said Wednesday that he is innocent and that police **coerced** him into drafting and signing 10 **confessions** .

"I messed myself up when I did that, but I was just plain scared," the 19-year-old said in a telephone conversation from the Wayne County Jail.

Koger was charged Tuesday with 25 counts of **rape** involving nine women, aged 16-40. The **rapes** occurred from July through early this month as the women got into or out of their cars in the Jefferson-Chene area, Koger's neighborhood, police said.

Koger also was charged with six counts of armed robbery and three counts of using a gun during a felony in connection with the alleged assaults.

Detroit police would not comment Wednesday on Koger's statements, except to say it is against department policy to coerce a **confession** .

Koger, who relatives said left Kettering High School in 10th grade and was working toward **his** high school equivalency degree, gave this account of **his** arrest and interrogation:

He was walking back to **his** house Saturday night after trying unsuccessfully to get a ride to **his** grandmother's home, when four or five police cars converged on him and police arrested him without explaining why.

He said that after allowing officers to search and handcuff him, he was put in a car with three officers and taken to the 9th (Gratiot) Precinct station.

"I asked what I'd done," he said. He said police told him he was to be questioned in a series of burglaries because he fit a witness' description.

Koger was detained at the precinct and then taken to police headquarters at 1300 Beaubien, where he was questioned by a detective. He said he did not know the detective's full name.

"I asked him what I was supposed to have done," Koger said. "He said, 'Violent sex crimes.' He told me there had been a number of violent sex crimes in my neighborhood."

Koger said the detective asked him if he had committed the crimes, and he said no.

"Then he said, 'Samson, I've never met you before, but I think you did it.' He pulled out a stack of victims' statements and threatened me with all kinds of charges."

Koger said the detective told him he would serve less prison time if he co-operated. In part because he was on probation for attempted delivery of cocaine, Koger said, he was frightened of the detective and did as he was told so "I could get out of there and get some legal help."

He said the detective told him to draft and sign the **confessions** using details he was given from victims' statements.

"I wrote all of this stuff out," he said. "I saw then and there I was being railroaded, but I was scared."

Koger said police subsequently searched **his** mother's and grandmother's homes and found no evidence.

"The bottom line is that I didn't do any of this," he said.

A preliminary examination is set for Wednesday.

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