

Beat: News

U.S. prosecutor's father rescued days after kidnapping in North Carolina

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USPA News - A North Carolina man whose daughter has prosecuted gang members and drug cases was rescued in Atlanta on late Wednesday, days after he was kidnapped from his home in an "elaborate kidnapping plot" to make demands in favor of an inmate. Frank Arthur Janssen, 63, was kidnapped from his home in Wake Forest, North Carolina, last Saturday and taken to Atlanta where he was held in an apartment with "very dangerous people," the FBI said.

The group then sent specific demands to Janssen's family that would have been for the benefit of inmate Kelvin Melton at the Polk Correctional Institution in Butner, North Carolina. "Melton was previously prosecuted by Frank Janssen's daughter who is an assistant district attorney in Wake County, North Carolina," said FBI spokeswoman Shelley Lynch. "Melton was convicted and is currently serving a state sentence of life without parole." Janssen was rescued by an elite FBI team at a New Town Circle apartment building in Southeast Atlanta at approximately 11:55 p.m. local time on Wednesday. "When the circumstances and time to move in were determined appropriate, the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team rescued Mister Janssen," Lynch said. Lynch said Janssen was receiving medical care on Wednesday afternoon, though it was not immediately clear why and if the medical treatment was the result of injuries sustained during the kidnapping or rescue. "Both Janssen and his family have remained strong and focused throughout this ordeal. They ask for privacy at this time," she said. Five people were arrested after Wednesday's rescue and are facing federal charges. They were identified as 21-year-old Jenna Paulin Martin, 30-year-old Tiana Maynard who is also known as "Tiana Brooks," 20-year-old Jevante Price who is also known as "Flame," Michael Montreal Gooden who is also known as "Hot," and 29-year-old Clifton James Roberts. The investigation is still ongoing and numerous law enforcement agencies are on the case, Lynch said.

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