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Six men not guilty of gang raping woman

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Derby Road in Southampton

A jury of seven women and five men took just 85 minutes to clear the remaining five men alleged to have taken part in the attack, part of which was filmed.

A sixth defendant had been cleared of his involvement earlier in the trial that had lasted five weeks at the city crown court.

Proceedings against a 13-year-old had to be stopped after he had been taken ill during the hearing.

The prosecution claimed the alleged victim was returning home at night after seeing friends when she found herself in a subway in Derby Road where she met Mihaita Palie.

From there, they went to a nearby house where she went into two bedrooms, one equipped with a couple of double beds and a sofa bed.

Simon Forster, prosecuting, claimed she had been subjected to a four-hour ordeal, some of which was filmed and shown to the jury.

Judge Peter Ralls QC heard the woman afterwards left the house and walked to a telephone box in St Mary's Road where she rang the police to report her ordeal.

Palie, 33, Cosmin Nicut, 20, Octovian Militaru, 37, Ion Matel, 41, Nicolae Ghinea, 21, Radu-Florin Panciuc, 21, and the teenager had denied the sex allegations.

Panciuc was acquitted when under cross-examination the woman admitted she had not seen him at the house.

In their defence, Palie claimed he had consensual sex with the woman and his adult co-accused said they had paid her for it.

Yesterday the jurors believed them.

The 13-year-old had earlier been discharged after he had suffered two epileptic attacks during the trial, and the prosecution have been given seven days to determine whether they will seek a fresh trial.

http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/13417271.Six_men_not_guilty_of_gang_raping_woman/