



Charges dropped for dentists accused of rape in Las Vegas

[Gabriella Benavidez](#)

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California dentists, from left, Saman Edalat, Sina Edalat, Poria Edalat and Ali Badkoobehi, were accused of rape and kidnapping, but had their charges dropped by the district attorney's office.

(Courtesy: W. Michael Horvath)

LAS VEGAS (FOX5) -- A group of dentists from California who were arrested for rape and kidnapping charges at the Wynn Las Vegas in July had their charges dropped by the district attorney's office.

Defense attorney Jess Marchese confirmed the charges against Ali Badkoobehi, Sina Edalat, Poria Edalat and Saman Edalat were dropped Monday morning due to a cell phone video presented to the D.A.'s office by the defendants.

Michael Horvath, the defense attorney who represented Badkoobehi, said the D.A.'s office contacted him and the other attorneys after prosecutors discovered the allegations had been fabricated after reviewing the facts of the case. Robert Draskovich, the defense attorney who also represented Badkoobehi, said the video evidence proved the sex was consensual.

Marchese, the defense attorney who represented Saman Edalat, said his client did not participate in the encounter. He also stated prosecutors wouldn't have allowed the men to be released without bail if they had a strong case.

"We are so grateful to the justice system for recognizing that we were the victims in this case," the dentists said in a statement. "We knew the facts came out that the vicious allegations would be exposed as lies and our good names would be cleared. We want to thank our families, friends and lawyers for sticking by us through this horrific ordeal."

The dentists added, "At this sensitive moment in our history, we believe that women should be respected and heard and believed. But as this case shows, it is also important to keep a critical eye on those willing to use the movement for their own selfish motives and remember that innocent until proven guilty is one of our country's bedrock principles."

The dentists had been previously released without bail in August.

https://www.fox5vegas.com/news/charges-dropped-for-dentists-accused-of-rape-in-las-vegas/article_f11377b6-c5b8-11e8-9c34-ab79eb0d646a.html