

FILED

April 26, 2026 04:24 PM

ST-2026-CR-00101

TAMARA CHARLES
CLERK OF THE COURT

In The Superior Court of the Virgin Islands
Division of St. Thomas and St. John

Government of the Virgin Islands)
Plaintiff,)

vs.)

Mr. Paul J. Arnold III)
Defendant)

Advise of Rights Complaint

Case No. **26TP05107**

PROBABLE CAUSE FACT SHEET

I, Detective Brian Delano Bedminster, of the Virgin Islands Police Department, currently assigned to the Criminal Investigation Bureau. I have received training and experience in conducting criminal investigations, collecting evidence, and making arrests based on probable cause.

On Saturday, April 25, 2026, at approximately 1244 hours, I was notified that I would be traveling to Little Saint James to assist with an ongoing investigation involving a reported kidnapping and/or assault that had allegedly occurred on the island. Accompanying me were Sergeant Alester Carty, Detective S. Donastorg, and Forensic Detective Paula Telemaque-Prince. We traveled to the location via a blue Marine Unit vessel operated by Sergeant L. Francis.

At approximately 1400 hours, we arrived at Little Saint James and, upon docking and disembarking the vessel, were met by individuals identified as Anna Rodriquez, Emory Poleon, and Paul J. Arnold III. During this initial encounter, Paul J. Arnold III displayed an aggressive demeanor and directed a verbal outburst toward Sergeant L. Francis. Mr. Arnold was instructed to calm himself, and order was restored.

Thereafter, members of VIPD Criminal Investigation Bureau were escorted further onto the island by means of all-terrain vehicles to a designated holding area. Upon arrival at this location, I observed an adult white male, later identified as Benjamin Owen, who was restrained with duct tape. His body and face were bound, and he was clothed only in black pants bearing the words "We Fight Monster."

Forensic Detective Paula Telemaque-Prince began documenting the scene and surrounding area by photographing the victim and relevant evidence. While this documentation was taking place, Paul J. Arnold III exited an all-terrain vehicle positioned behind the officers and proceeded to walk past multiple law enforcement personnel.

Shortly thereafter, I heard a loud impact consistent with a physical strike. Although I did not directly observe the moment of contact, the sound and immediate reaction of officers indicated that a physical altercation had occurred. Law enforcement officers immediately responded and detained Paul J. Arnold III. He did not resist, and handcuffs were applied. Officers then removed the duct tape restraints from Benjamin Owen. Photographs were taken to document his condition prior to his release from the bindings. Both Benjamin Owen and Paul J. Arnold III were subsequently taken into custody and transported via the Marine Unit vessel to the Richard Callwood Command.

While traveling back to St. Thomas, Paul J. Arnold III made a voluntary statement indicating that he became upset after receiving a telephone call from his pregnant girlfriend, who allegedly informed him that she had been pushed to the ground by individuals trespassing on the island and taking photographs. Mr. Arnold further stated that some individuals fled the scene and that Benjamin Owen had been restrained by island personnel in an effort to detain him and “protect the island.”

Upon arrival at the Richard Callwood Command Criminal Investigation Bureau, Paul J. Arnold III was advised of his constitutional rights, which he acknowledged and waived in writing. He was subsequently processed by the Forensics Unit.

Based on the totality of the circumstances, including my observations, the physical condition of Benjamin Owen and his acknowledgment of being struck, the presence of duct tape restraints, the actions of Paul J. Arnold III, and his own statements, I have probable cause to believe that Paul J. Arnold III did commit the offense of **Simple Assault**, in violation of Virgin Islands law, in the presence of law enforcement officers.

Further, there is probable cause to believe that Benjamin Owen was unlawfully restrained by individuals on the island, constituting elements consistent with unlawful restraint and/or

kidnapping, the investigation of which remains ongoing that matter is being investigated by Detective S. Donastorg.

Paul J. Arnold III was placed under arrest for Simple Assault. Bail was set in the amount of \$500.00, which was subsequently posted on his behalf. He was released and ordered to appear before the Magistrate Court at Barbel Plaza on Monday, April 27, 2026, at 0800 hours.

Based on the foregoing facts and circumstances, there exists probable cause to charge Paul J. Arnold III with the offense of Simple Assault.

Probable cause exists to arrest and charge Mr. Paul J. Arnold III with violations of:

1. **14 V.I.C. § 299(2)** – **Simple Assault**

The defendant has a criminal record, which includes but is not limited to the following:

1. SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS
2. SEE LOCAL RAP SHEET



POLICE OFFICER

Submitted to and sworn before me this day of April 26, 2026

1st Brenda Scales

Assistant Attorney General