

NEW YORK POST

'VIGILANTE' S.I. COPS GET BUSTED

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November 3, 2007 -- Two Staten Island cops were arrested yesterday, suspended and charged with carrying out a form of "vigilante justice" on a 14-year-old boy on Halloween.

Rayshawn Moreno said the pair assaulted, threatened and cursed at him, then left him in a desolate area miles from home.

"This is an act of vigilante justice," said Jason Leventhal, a lawyer for the teen's family. "It smacks of something in the Deep South of the '40s and '50s."

Officers Richard Danese and Thomas Elliassen, both 28 and with the 120th Precinct, picked the teen up in Arlington on suspicion of having been with a group pelting cars with eggs, then took him on a two-mile drive to Bloomfield - all the while using racial slurs in referring to him, Leventhal said.

Rayshawn said that once the two cops had left, he took off his clothes so they wouldn't recognize him if they returned. He got a worker at a clothing store to call his parents.

Danese and Elliassen are charged with endangering the welfare of a child and unlawful imprisonment.

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