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For Immediate Release

**Former UI Student Sentenced to 50 Years for Attempted Murder, 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Robbery**

April 27, 2026 (JOHNSON COUNTY, IA) – Today former University of Iowa student Ali Younes, 22, was sentenced to 50 years for charges related to an incident that occurred on the UI campus in April 2022 where Younes strangled a woman who was walking alone at night and stole her earrings once she was unconscious. Younes was sentenced to two 25-year sentences for Attempted Murder, a Class B Felony, and 25 years for Robbery in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, also a Class B Felony, to be run consecutively. Each 25-year sentence has a 17.5-year mandatory minimum. Younes was sentenced to 10 years for Theft in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, a Class C Felony, which will run concurrently with the sentences for Attempted Murder and Robbery.

Younes was also sentenced to 5 years in a related court case for a charge of Escape from Custody – Felon, a Class D Felony. This sentence will run concurrently with the other sentences.

After the sentencing today, Johnson County Attorney Rachel Zimmermann Smith said, “Today, after four years, the victim and the community can rest easier knowing that the Defendant will not be able to hurt anyone else.”

This case was investigated by the University of Iowa Police Department and prosecuted by Johnson County Attorney Rachel Zimmermann Smith and Assistant County Attorney Haley Huddleston.

-END-

**Attached:** 2 Sentencing Orders



The Defendant shall be given credit for **any time** previously served in connection with this offense.

The Defendant's term of incarceration may be reduced by statutory earned time, work credits, and program credits. The Defendant may be eligible for parole before the sentence is discharged.

It is recommended that the parole board follow its usual and ordinary custom and practices related to release or parole of the Defendant.

Defendant shall pay victim pecuniary damages as set out in the Statement(s) of Pecuniary Damages previously filed or as subsequently filed or amended by the State within 30 days from today's date. If no objection is on file within 10 days thereafter, the Statement shall be adopted by the Court.

The amount of the fine and victim pecuniary damages, if any, constitute Category A restitution.

Defendant is ordered to pay court costs and the expense of Court-appointed counsel, if any, in the amount of \$60.00 or as subsequently approved by the State Public Defender. These amounts constitute Category B restitution. Consistent with Iowa law (see S.F. 457, effective June 25, 2020), the Court presumes Defendant has the reasonable ability to pay the Category B restitution set forth herein. However, Defendant may, within 30 days, request that the Court make a separate determination as to Defendant's reasonable ability to pay Category B restitution. If Defendant makes such a request and files the required financial affidavit, the matter will be set for hearing, if necessary. Failure to timely request a determination waives the Defendant's right to challenge his ability to pay Category B restitution in full except as allowed under Iowa Code Section 910.7.

Pursuant to Chapter 81 of the Iowa Criminal Code, the defendant shall report to the 6<sup>th</sup> District Iowa Department of Corrections to provide a DNA sample for DNA profiling.

The Court finds Defendant is unable to make full payment of the financial obligation due today. Defendant shall make periodic payments every 30 days in an amount not less than \$50. The first installment is due within 30 days. If the total amount due is less than \$100, Defendant must pay the full amount within 30 days. Iowa law does not permit a payment plan if the amount due is less than \$100.

In determining this sentence, the Court has considered the court file, including the entirety of the presentence investigation report, the nature and circumstances of the offenses, the history and characteristics of Defendant, including Defendant's age and

prior confirmed criminal record, not including unadjudicated or dismissed allegations; and the recommendations of both counsel. The Court believes that consecutive sentences for Counts 1 and 3 are appropriate for the reasons stated on the record. The Court finds the sentences imposed will offer Defendant the maximum opportunity for rehabilitation balanced against the need to protect the community.

Defendant was advised of his appeal rights.

Defendant's prior bail provisions are exonerated.

Clerk to notify.



State of Iowa Courts

**Case Number**  
FECR133583  
**Type:**

**Case Title**  
STATE OF IOWA VS YOUNES, ALI ALFRED ALI  
Order of Disposition

So Ordered

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Kevin McKeever, District Court Judge,  
Sixth Judicial District of Iowa

Electronically signed on 2026-04-27 14:36:32

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR JOHNSON COUNTY

|                        |   |                       |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| STATE OF IOWA,         | ) |                       |
|                        | ) |                       |
| Plaintiff,             | ) | No. FECR138065        |
|                        | ) |                       |
| v.                     | ) |                       |
|                        | ) | JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE |
| ALI ALFRED ALI YOUNES, | ) |                       |
|                        | ) |                       |
| Defendant.             | ) |                       |

The Defendant appeared in open court this date with his attorney, Jeffrey Powell, for pronouncement of judgment and sentence. The State was represented by County Attorney Rachel Zimmerman and Assistant County Attorney Haley Huddleston.

Premised on the record made this date and the plea of guilty previously entered herein, IT IS NOW ADJUDGED by the Court that the Defendant is guilty of the following:

**Count I – the offense of Escape from Custody- Felon, a Class D Felony in violation of Iowa Code Section 719.4(1).**

The Defendant is sentenced to be confined for an indeterminate term not to exceed **five (5) years**. His custody is placed with the Director of the Division of Adult Corrections, his temporary custody with the Sheriff of this County. The sentence shall run **concurrently** with the sentence imposed in Johnson County Case No. FECR133583.

The Defendant shall be given credit for **any time** previously served in connection with this offense.

The Defendant's term of incarceration may be reduced by statutory earned time, work credits, and program credits. The Defendant may be eligible for parole before the sentence is discharged.

It is recommended that the parole board follow its usual and ordinary custom and practices related to release or parole of the Defendant.

Defendant is further sentenced to pay a fine in the amount of \$1,025, together with the 15% Crime Services Surcharge. Payment of the fine is suspended.

Defendant shall pay victim pecuniary damages as set out in the Statement(s) of Pecuniary Damages previously filed or as subsequently filed or amended by the State within 30 days from today's date. If no objection is on file within 10 days thereafter, the Statement shall be adopted by the Court.

The amount of the fine and victim pecuniary damages, if any, constitute Category A restitution.

Defendant is ordered to pay court costs and the expense of Court-appointed counsel, if any, in the amount of \$60.00 or as subsequently approved by the State Public Defender. These amounts constitute Category B restitution. Consistent with Iowa law (see S.F. 457, effective June 25, 2020), the Court presumes Defendant has the reasonable ability to pay the Category B restitution set forth herein. However, Defendant may, within 30 days, request that the Court make a separate determination as to Defendant's reasonable ability to pay Category B restitution. If Defendant makes such a request and files the required financial affidavit, the matter will be set for hearing, if necessary. Failure to timely request a determination waives the Defendant's right to challenge his ability to pay Category B restitution in full except as allowed under Iowa Code Section 910.7.

Pursuant to Chapter 81 of the Iowa Criminal Code, the defendant shall report to the 6<sup>th</sup> District Iowa Department of Corrections to provide a DNA sample for DNA profiling.

The Court finds Defendant is unable to make full payment of the financial obligation due today. Defendant shall make periodic payments every 30 days in an amount not less than \$50. The first installment is due within 30 days. If the total amount due is less than \$100, Defendant must pay the full amount within 30 days. Iowa law does not permit a payment plan if the amount due is less than \$100.

In determining this sentence, the Court has considered the court file, including the entirety of the presentence investigation report, the nature and circumstances of the offense, the history and characteristics of Defendant, including Defendant's age and prior confirmed criminal record, not including unadjudicated or dismissed allegations; the recommendations of both counsel; and the plea agreement. The Court finds the sentence imposed will offer Defendant the maximum opportunity for rehabilitation balanced against the need to protect the community.

Defendant's prior bail provisions are exonerated.

Defendant is advised of the right to appeal this sentencing to the Iowa Supreme Court. Appeal bond is set in the amount of \$5,000 cash only. Because Defendant entered a guilty plea, there is no automatic right to appeal, and Defendant must show good cause

to the appellate court to proceed with the appeal. If Defendant chooses to appeal, Defendant must file a notice of appeal within 30 days of sentencing. This deadline is jurisdictional and failure to file an appeal within that period will result in Defendant being unable to challenge this conviction or sentence on appeal. In pursuing this appeal, Defendant may apply for, but is not guaranteed, the appointment of counsel and the furnishing of all relevant transcripts.

Clerk to notify.



State of Iowa Courts

**Case Number**  
FECR138065  
**Type:**

**Case Title**  
STATE OF IOWA VS YOUNES, ALI ALFRED ALI  
Order of Disposition

So Ordered

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin McKeever".

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Kevin McKeever, District Court Judge,  
Sixth Judicial District of Iowa

Electronically signed on 2026-04-27 14:34:23