

By Matt Kozar | Reporter

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New details are unfolding in the case of a Bolton man accused of raping a young woman. Authorities say the suspect could be responsible for the disappearances and deaths of at least 10 women - cold cases from the 1990's that are waiting to be solved.

According to the Hinds County Sheriff's Department, 37-year-old Ricky Franklin turned himself in Sunday. He faces kidnapping, aggravated assault, sexual battery and rape charges. Investigators say he attacked a 21-year-old woman on Saturday at his home on White Singleton Road in Bolton. Investigators believe most of his crimes happened in that community.

Hinds County District Attorney Robert Smith says Franklin has been brought up on similar charges involving other women, but they haven't been able to convict him. He considers Franklin a very dangerous man who selected his victims at random.

"This is a very important arrest for us," he said.

According to a witness statement, "Ricky Franklin held me against my will, threatened my will, threatened my life, beat me severely with a bottle and his fist, choked me by grabbing my windpipe, tried to bite off my ear, put his penis in my mouth, and raped me. I lost consciousness during this attack...When I was being discharged, I saw Ricky Franklin sitting on a bed talking to a black women. I pointed him out to UMC employees and the person who was picking me up. I also reported seeing Ricky Franklin to UMC Police. I later learned he was trying to get admitted to UMC."

"She's fortunate to be alive," said Smith. He believes Franklin would have killed the young woman if a family member hadn't walked in on him. He's hoping testimony from the 21-year-old victim raped this weekend will secure his conviction. It's unclear why he tried to check into the hospital.

In 2000, Franklin was convicted of aggravated assault for piercing a man's skull with a brass object. The man was permanently disabled.

http://www2.wjtv.com/jtv/news/local/articl...mself_in/55444/

FBI Now Involved In Franklin Case

DA Says Franklin May Be Linked To 10 Hinds Co. Slayings

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JACKSON, Miss. -- The Federal Bureau of Investigations is helping to build a case against a man who may be connected to the slayings of 10 women in Hinds County, officials said.

Ricky Franklin is charged with kidnapping, sexual battery, rape and aggravated assault, Hinds County District Attorney Robert Smith said. He's accused of beating a woman and sucking her blood before raping her on Saturday.

The FBI searched Franklin's Hinds County residence Thursday, officials said. Agents were looking for evidence, including an ice pick Franklin is accused of using to threaten the woman, Hinds County Sheriff Malcolm McMillin said.

Franklin's bond was set at \$300,000 Tuesday. On Thursday, he was still being held at the Hinds County Detention Center in Raymond.

Smith said Franklin has been suspected in at least 10 slayings or disappearances, but he has never been convicted due to a lack of evidence.

"Back in 1999, they discovered the bodies. There were witnesses who were reluctant to give statements and they had issues with securing evidence," Smith said.

Faye Peterson, who was the Hinds County district attorney at the time Franklin went to trial, said it was hard to get a conviction because no one would talk about the case. She said they had scattered information that led him to be a person of interest.

"He's one of those individuals that you hate to say you know they'll be back, but you don't want to think about someone else getting hurt," Peterson said. "So that was not the strongest case. The assistant that tried it knew it wasn't, but he was just one of those individuals we really felt strongly that we needed to at least try."

Franklin has been on trial three times for murder and rape charges. He was found not guilty once. The other two cases ended in mistrials.

Hinds County Chief Deputy Steve Pickett said Franklin has been a suspect in an ongoing cold case investigation related to "multiple corpses" found near Bolton in 1999.

<http://www.wapt.com/news/21596241/detail.html>

http://www2.wjtv.com/jtv/news/state_region..._missing/57787/

Hinds Rape Suspect Was Not In Jail When Four Women Went Missing

By Ross Adams | Reporter

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In July 1999 the body of a woman investigators call Jane Doe #1 was found near an oil well on Ricky Franklin's property in Bolton.

That same month, 41 year old Mable Conic disappeared.

She was last seen near her home on Botnick Court and Mill Street in Jackson.

People who knew Conic say she was a drug addict and a prostitute.

Friday one man said, "She was playing a dangerous game."

A dangerous game that may of cost Conic her life.

On Halloween 1999 the skeletal remains of Coinc and two other women Shannon McKinney and Jane Doe # 2 were discovered deep in the woods behind Franklin's home.

Around the time the three women went missing, Franklin was not in jail. In fact, in the years before he had only been arrested for a string of misdemeanors.

In March 2004 Franklin pled guilty to assaulting a man with brass knuckles. He spent a year in state prison on that conviction.

Former Hinds county district attorney Faye Peterson says by that time, the FBI had already teamed up with the Hinds county sheriff's department to investigate the unsolved murders linked to Franklin.

"They were able to find certain details that were similar as far as the locations where the victims were picked up and last seen, information about a particular vehicle... and they said know what this is the same guy," Peterson said.

From 2006 through 2008, Franklin was held at the Raymond Detention Center awaiting trial for Mabel Conic's murder.

But Judge William Barnett ordered him released in 2008 because prosecutors didn't have enough evidence to take him to trial
