

Lawsuit alleges billionaire Leon Black raped teen with Down syndrome and autism at Epstein's townhouse

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(NBC News) — A federal lawsuit filed on Tuesday accuses billionaire [Leon Black](#) of raping a then-16-year-old girl with Down syndrome and autism in 2002 at the Manhattan townhouse of convicted sex offender [Jeffrey Epstein](#).

An attorney for Black, who co-founded the investment firm Apollo Global Management Inc. and was an [associate of Epstein's](#), has denied the allegations, calling them “frivolous and sanctionable.”

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The lawsuit, which was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, alleges that the plaintiff, identified only as Jane Doe, was trafficked to Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, who was [sentenced](#) last year to 20 years in prison for [recruiting and grooming](#) teenage girls to be sexually abused by Epstein.

The plaintiff, who is now in her late 30s, was born with mosaic Down syndrome and has a “developmental age” of around 12 years old, according to the lawsuit.

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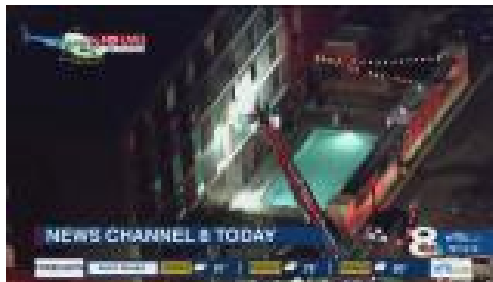
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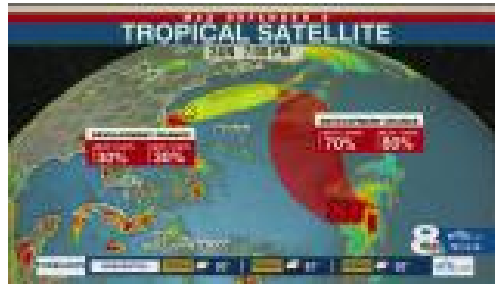
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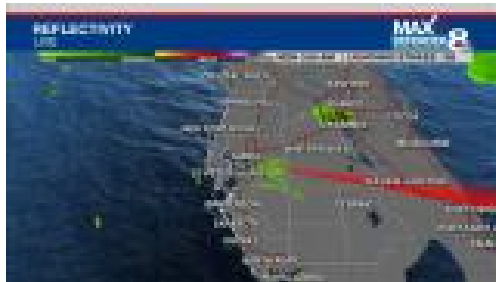
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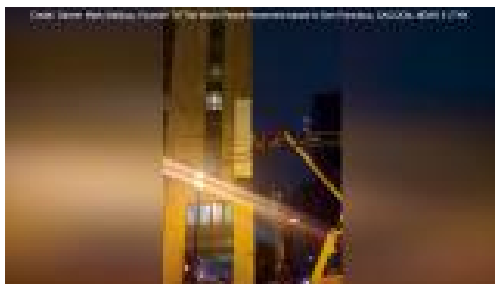
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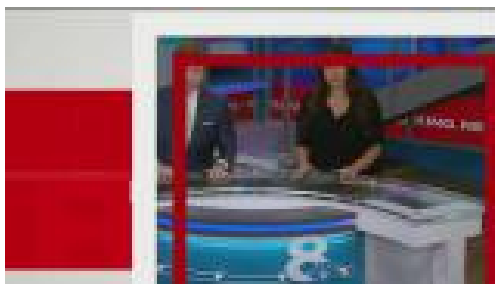
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