Criminal Law

Rob Ford's former driver found not guilty of all drug charges

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TORONTO – Former Toronto mayor Rob Ford's friend Alexander (Sandro) Lisi has been found not guilty on drug-related charges. <u>Hamilton Spectator Toronto Star</u>

Lisi's co-accused – Jamshid (Jay) Bahrami – was also found not guilty.

Both men were charged with trafficking cannabis.

Lisi, 36, was also charged with possession of a small quantity of marijuana and possession of the proceeds of crime while Bahrami was charged with cocaine possession.

Lisi had \$900 in marked police money when he was arrested _ allegedly from an undercover officer's purchase of 220 grams of pot in Bahrami's dry cleaning store.

Justice Ramez Khawly says he found the undercover officer's testimony not credible and that the Crown couldn't prove the entire case beyond a reasonable doubt.

Lisi also faces separate charges of extortion related to trying to retrieve the infamous Ford ``crack video.''

He has yet to stand trial in that case.

Bahrami's lawyer, Jacob Stilman, says they are pleased with the judgment and it comes as a great relief for his client.

"He has faced immense adversity throughout this experience," he tells AdvocateDaily.com.

Stilman says the judge accepted the defence position that Bahrami was "nothing but a device for the police to try to achieve the larger objectives of their intense investigation of Rob Ford.

"He has always maintained that he is not a dealer of drugs of any kind and this decision is vindication of that," he says.

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