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claim to have been assaulted by drivers on the platform.

Jul. 14, 2022



By Prarthana Prakash, Bloomberg News (viaTNS).

Uber Technologies Inc. is being sued by more than 500 women across the US who claim to have been assaulted by drivers on the platform.

The complaint, filed by Slater Slater Schulman LLP in San Francisco, alleges that women were “kidnapped, sexually assaulted, sexually battered, raped, falsely imprisoned, stalked, harassed or otherwise attacked” in their rides. It claims Uber has known about the sexual misconduct by some of the drivers, including rape, since 2014.

Uber has long struggled to handle complaints of misconduct on the ride-sharing app. Just two weeks ago, the company released its second safety report that showed it received 3,824 reports of the five most severe categories of sexual assault in 2019 and 2020, ranging from “non-consensual kissing of a nonsexual body part” to “nonconsensual sexual penetration,” or rape.

“While the company has acknowledged this crisis of sexual assault in recent years, its

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claim they were taken advantage of by drivers after they had consumed alcohol. Uber has long defended itself by asserting that it can't be held responsible for behavior of its drivers, who aren't employees but rather are contractors. In its recent safety report, Uber said it conducts elaborate background checks of drivers before and during their time with the company.

“Sexual assault is a horrific crime and we take every single report seriously,” Uber said in a statement. “There is nothing more important than safety, which is why Uber has built new safety features, established survivor-centric policies, and been more transparent about serious incidents. While we can't comment on pending litigation, we will continue to keep safety at the heart of our work.”

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