‎Partey signs for Villarreal while on bail for rape charges

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‎Former Arsenal midfielder Thomas Partey, facing five rape charges in England, on Thursday completed a move to Spanish club Villarreal.  
  
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‎The 32-year-old Ghana international, who denies the allegations, was granted conditional bail on August 5 after appearing in a London court on five counts of rape against two women and one count of sexual assault against a third woman.  
  
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‎The alleged offences took place between 2021 and 2022, when he was an Arsenal player.  
  
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‎Partey was charged on July 4, four days after leaving the Gunners when his contract expired at the end of June.  
  
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‎In announcing his arrival, Villarreal stressed that they respect the “fundamental principle of the presumption of innocence”.  
  
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‎The club’s statement continued: “The player strongly proclaims his innocence and denies all the accusations made against him.  
  
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‎”The club… awaits the judiciary’s decision, which will be responsible for clarifying the facts alleged against him.”  
  
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‎Partey is due to appear at London’s Old Bailey court on September 2.  
  
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‎He joined Arsenal for £45 million ($60 million) from Atletico Madrid in October 2020.  
  
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‎He appeared 52 times for the Gunners last season and scored four goals.  
  
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‎Overall Partey played 167 games for the club, scoring nine times.  
  
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‎He has also made 51 appearances for Ghana.  
  
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‎Villarreal finished fifth in La Liga last season to qualify for the Champions League.  
  
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