



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
DDA Romina Vando
(661) 868-2745

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**Inmate Convicted of Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon Against Co-Defendant
At the Delano Courthouse**

People v. Javier Zaragoza: Kern County Superior Court Case DF016273A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a guilty verdict in a case in which an inmate assaulted another inmate with a deadly weapon inside the Delano Courthouse.

On October 30, 2023, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Romina Vando, a Kern County jury convicted Javier Zaragoza, age 41, of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon against another inmate, and two counts of possession of an inmate manufactured weapon.

On May 27, 2021, Zaragoza was housed as an inmate in the Kern Valley State Prison in Delano, California. He was being escorted to the inmate seating area for a sentencing hearing in Department C in the Delano Superior Court with his co-defendant. Just before reaching the seating area, Zaragoza slipped his right hand out of the handcuffs, took out an inmate manufactured weapon which he had brought into the courthouse and concealed on his person, and stabbed his co-defendant in the back multiple times before being detained by correctional officers.

Zaragoza was sentenced to 40 years to life in the Department of Corrections in 2003 for an attempted murder in Los Angeles County. At the May 27, 2021, hearing, Zaragoza was being sentenced on one count of Assault by a Prisoner by Means of Force Likely to Produce Great Bodily Injury. This charge added an additional 2 years and 8 months in prison to his prior sentence.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction stating, "Zaragoza's complete disregard for human life is horrifying and will not be tolerated. Every day, our office is fighting to protect our communities and never allow such individuals to roam freely."

Sentencing is scheduled for November 30, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in Department 7 of the Kern County Superior Court before Honorable Judge Brian McNamara. Zaragoza faces an additional 19 years in prison for his most recent crime.