



**CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**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

**JAMES D. SIMSON**  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**ANDREA S. KOHLER**  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**CONTACT:**  
**DDA John Allen**  
**(661) 868-2329**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Re: Jury Trial Conviction: Sexual Assault of Children: People v. Abel Rios BF172063A**

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction today in a sexual assault case involving multiple child-victims. On August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, a Kern County jury found defendant Abel Jose Rios guilty of all five charged felony counts involving sexual abuse of multiple victims less than ten years old. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney John Allen.

Rios was found guilty of committing multiple unlawful sexual acts with multiple child victims during a period spanning 14 months during 2017 and 2018.

Sentencing for Rios is scheduled for October 30, 2019, where Rios faces multiple potential life sentences (25-life +15-life + 15-life) totaling to as much as 55 years-to-life in prison as well as mandatory sex offender registration.

Advised of the verdict, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented that: "The District Attorney's Special Victims Unit handles cases involving unthinkable acts against our community's most vulnerable members. Our trained prosecutors are dedicated to bringing these predatory criminals to justice. We also have a staff victim advocates that stand ready help victims though both the court process and the long journey to recovery."

Abel Jose Rios:

