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**Jury Returns Verdict For Second-Degree Murder In Brutal Workplace Killing:
People v. Jose Luis Gutierrez Rosales: Kern County Superior Court Case BF189911A**

Bakersfield -- Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a jury verdict in a homicide case today. On May 10, 2023, a Kern County jury returned verdicts finding the defendant, Jose Luis Gutierrez Rosales, guilty of the second-degree murder of Hector Castaneda Vasquez. The jury also found true an enhancement that the murder was committed with the use of a deadly weapon. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Larry L. Fields.

On April 18, 2022, at approximately 10:30 a.m. Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to a farming company equipment yard on Di Gorgio Road near Lamont regarding an assault with a deadly weapon. When deputies arrived, they saw the victim, Hector Castaneda Vasquez, lying on his back in the dirt with massive injuries to his face and head. Emergency medical personnel arrived shortly after and declared the victim deceased.

Witnesses reported that Vasquez and Gutierrez-Rosales were co-workers for the past three years. After a morning break, Gutierrez-Rosales picked up a heavy metal pipe and began bashing Vasquez in the head. When Vasquez was on his back, witnesses saw Gutierrez-Rosales hovering over him, repeatedly pummeling Vasquez in the face. Ultimately, Hector Castaneda Vasquez succumbed to his injuries and was killed by the sustained infliction of blunt force trauma delivered by Gutierrez-Rosales.

Gutierrez-Rosales fled the scene after the assault and was arrested ten days later. After his arrest, Gutierrez-Rosales told Sheriff's detectives that his co-workers had teased him because of rumors relating to one of Gutierrez-Rosales' prior relationships. Gutierrez-Rosales claimed that the humiliation was too much and that it led him to get the pipe and strike the victim.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating; "Workplace harassment in all forms should be discouraged, but it is no excuse for the brutal beating and murder of another human being. Anyone who is so quick to kill based on so little provocation proves themselves to be an unacceptable threat to public safety. Murder charges are appropriate when mere rumors and innuendo are countered

with deadly and brutally violent acts.”

Sentencing for Rosales is scheduled for June 13, 2023, in Department 5 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge John Lua, where Rosales will face a sentence of up to 15 years to life in prison for the murder plus one additional year for use of a deadly weapon during the crime.

Jose Luis Gutierrez-Rosales:

