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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Approved by CJZ  
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**Sex Offender Inmate Convicted of Resisting Correctional Officers with Force**  
*People v. Joseph Smith: Kern County Superior Court Case #DF016210A*

(Bakersfield) - District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a jury trial conviction on a case in which an inmate used force to resist multiple Correctional Officers.

On Monday September 11, 2023, a Kern County Jury found Joseph Smith guilty of two counts of Resisting an Executive Officer in Performance of Duty, by use of force. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Sarah Merson.

On July 9, 2020, correctional officers attempted to search Smith, an inmate at North Kern State Prison in Delano, California, due to suspicion that Smith was hiding pills in his pocket. As one officer began the search, Smith attacked the officer, striking him in the face. As a second officer intervened to stop the attack, Smith punched the officer in the face. Smith resisted both officers, ignoring multiple commands to stop and instead using his body to resist being handcuffed. After the violent struggle, officers were able to detain Smith, using minimal force, and no nurses or other staff were injured.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction stating, "Violent offenders that continue to commit crimes while incarcerated will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. The District Attorney's Prison Crimes Unit prosecutes crimes committed by prison inmates to ensure that the most violent offenders stay in prison, where they belong."

Sentencing is scheduled for October 10, 2023, in Department 4 of the Kern County Superior Courthouse before the honorable Charles R. Brehmer. Smith is currently serving a sentence of 15-years to life for aggravated sexual assault of a child under 14 and committing a lewd and lascivious act on a child under 14 by force, duress, or fear. At sentencing, the court will take up Smith's prior strike convictions and additional factors in aggravation. Smith faces a potential sentence of 50 years to life.