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MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release: #40

Re: Jury Trial Conviction: Torture and Domestic Violence: Richard Rodriguez: Case MF013128A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction in a Torture and Domestic Violence case today. On August 1, 2019, in a case prosecuted by DDA Stephanie Zigler, a Kern County jury found defendant Ricard Rodriguez guilty of one felony count of Torture and two felony counts of Domestic Violence.

On August 28, 2018, Richard Rodriguez hit a female acquaintance multiple times with a wooden golf club. The force of the strikes was so severe that the golf club broke, splintering into pieces. Rodriguez then acquired a metal golf club and continued beating the victim with the metal golf club. The victim's injuries were extensive, including severe contusions to the victim's body, some clearly identifiable as the product of being struck with the golf clubs. The victim suffered additional broken bones to her hand as she attempted to shield herself and her small dog from the defendant's prolonged and continuous assault.

While investigating the August 2018 assault, deputies of the Kern County Sheriff's Office identified a prior female acquaintance of the defendant and learned that she too had been violently abused by Rodriguez. In March of 2017, Rodriguez assaulted the prior female acquaintance with a baseball bat, hitting her in excess of ten times. When she fled the residence, Rodriguez chased her into the street, and continued to assault her with the bat. Rodriguez fled when neighbors in the area intervened. Rodriguez was found guilty of both the 2017 and 2018 assaults against each of the victims. Both assaults occurred in the Mojave area.

Rodriguez has two prior qualifying "strikes;" one regarding an armed robbery that occurred in Los Angeles County, and the second for a prior attempted murder conviction that occurred in San Bernardino County. Due to his criminal history, Rodriguez is eligible for increased punishment for his crimes, and faces a potential sentence of more than 50 years-to-life when sentenced on August 29, 2019.

Advised of the verdict, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented that "Today's conviction is a reminder that the criminal justice system stands ready to help victims of domestic abuse break the cycle of violence. No one should be forced to endure domestic violence, and I honor all those with the courage

to help bring domestic abusers to justice.”

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Zigler and investigated by KCSO.

Richard Rodriguez:

