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**Wasco State Prison Inmate Jose Carrasco Convicted of Battery
Causing Great Bodily Injury to Correctional Officer**
People v. Jose Carrasco: Kern County Superior Court Case DF017030A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a jury verdict in a case in which an inmate seriously injured a correction officer.

On June 6, 2023, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Jamila Ha, a Kern County jury convicted Jose Carrasco, age 27, of four separate counts including assault with force likely to cause great bodily injury and three counts of battery on a correctional officer. The jury also made special findings that one of the correctional officers suffered great bodily injury by the defendant during the commission of the crime.

On July 22, 2022, within a week of arriving as an inmate at Wasco State Prison, Carrasco approached a correctional officer to request toilet paper. Carrasco attacked the officer by punching him in the face and nose, pushing him inside an office, locking the door behind them. He continued to attack the officer with multiple punches to the face, head, and upper torso keeping his back against the door to slow down responding officers. When officers were able to unlock the office door, Carrasco used his bodyweight to slam the door shut. Officers eventually forced entry into the office. Once inside Carrasco attacked the two responding officers but was eventually detained. The victim suffered a fractured nose and face causing severe breathing problems, extensive bleeding, and required surgery. The initial officer also injured his hand and back during the attack.

Carrasco was sentenced to the Department of Corrections in 2022 for robbery and has a prior robbery conviction from 2015. Both prior crimes were committed in Los Angeles County and are violent felonies.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating; “Inmates that continue to commit violent crimes despite being incarcerated in prison will be prosecuted and their sentences extended. Carrasco, who had already been convicted of two prior ‘strike’ offenses, committed yet another violent crime while in prison He is eligible for a third-strike life-sentence that will protect the public from additional harm at his hands.”

Sentencing is scheduled for August 2 at 8:30 a.m. in Department 18 in the Kern County Superior Court before honorable Judge Michael Bush. Carrasco was scheduled to be released from prison in 2024, but now faces a sentence of up to 48 years-to-life in prison for the latest convictions.