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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by CJZ
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Plea Entered in Sexual Assault Case Involving Two Victims, One Being a Minor
People vs. Rodrigo Perez: Kern County Superior Court Case #BF189705A

(Bakersfield) - District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant sexual assault plea on June 12, 2023. In a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorneys Samantha Allen, defendant Rodrigo Perez pled no contest to all felony counts and their enhancements, for sexual assaults of two separate victims, including aggravated sexual assault on a minor under 14, forcible sodomy, digital penetration and oral copulation of a minor under 14, kidnapping with the intent to commit rape, criminal threats, dissuading a witness, and assault with a deadly weapon.

On August 1, 2014, in Delano, CA, the defendant followed the 13-year-old victim on her way to school. He led her into an alley at gunpoint where he blindfolded her, tied and bound her, and proceeded to sexually assault her. He threatened to harm her and her family if she took off the blindfold before he left the scene. The victim never had the opportunity to view the defendant. During a medical examination after the assault, swabs were collected from the victim's person and entered into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database.

On November 17, 2021, in Contra Costa County, the defendant kidnapped his girlfriend's daughter, again using a firearm and a knife, and attempted to sexually assault her. The defendant tried to duct tape the victim's hands together, but she fought back and was able to prevent being bound. Ultimately the defendant released the victim, and she reported the incident to law enforcement. When his DNA was collected upon his arrest, a CODIS hit was obtained from the 2014 Delano case. Confirmatory testing was completed indicating that the defendant's DNA had been found on the victim's body from the 2014 Delano case.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commenting on the plea, stating; “I commend the brave victims for having the courage to speak out. Justice has been long overdue. I am grateful to the efforts of law enforcement for making the DNA findings that led to the crucial evidence on such an important case. Thanks to this conviction, we can all find comfort in knowing Perez will no longer be roaming the streets as a free man.”

Sentencing is set for September 13, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in Department 4 before Superior Court Judge Charles Brehmer. Perez faces a sentence upwards of 100 years to life in prison.

Rodrigo Perez:

