



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

October 24, 2023
MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
DDA Sarah Merson
(661) 868-2745

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by: CJZ
Press Release #23-71

Inmate Convicted for Violent Attack in Prison
People v. Cristian Lopez: Kern County Superior Court Case DF017520A

(Bakersfield) - District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a jury trial conviction on a case in which an inmate stabbed another inmate in a coordinated assault. On October 18, 2023, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Sarah Merson, a Kern County Jury found Cristian Lopez guilty of Assault with a Deadly Weapon by a Prisoner and Assault by Means of Force Likely to Cause Great Bodily Injury by a Prisoner.

On February 28, 2023, Lopez was an inmate at North Kern State Prison when he and a second inmate attacked another inmate in a surprise attack. Lopez, armed with an inmate-manufactured weapon, stabbed the victim repeatedly in the arms and chest. The victim tried to fight back but was unable to stop the repeated strikes from Lopez and the second attacker. Lopez and the second attacker were relentless, chasing the victim as he tried to run away and stabbing him in the back several times. Correctional officers were able to swiftly respond and put an end to the attack. The victim was ultimately stabbed 13 times.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction saying, "Offenders that engage in callous acts of violence will continue to be prosecuted in Kern County, whether they are behind bars or in the community."

Sentencing is scheduled for November 15, 2023, in Department 6 of the Kern County Superior Courthouse before the honorable Judge John Brownlee. Lopez was out on parole as of June 2023 but will face a sentence of up to 6 years in prison for these charges.

Cristian Lopez:

