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Jury Finds Acosta Guilty of Second-Degree Murder for Wasco Apartment Complex Stabbing
People v. Sergio Acosta: Kern County Superior Court Case BF187389A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction. On November 16, 2023, in a case presented by Deputy District Attorneys Samantha Allen, a Kern County jury found defendant Sergio Acosta guilty of second-degree murder with the use of a deadly weapon.

On September 19, 2021, Acosta walked from his apartment to the victim's apartment with a knife in hand. Acosta and the victim lived in the same apartment complex and had a history of conflict. As the victim was sitting on his own porch, Acosta immediately began to stab the victim repeatedly in the head and chest area. The victim suffered 7 stab wounds, the fatal wound being just above his left eye.

When the victim collapsed, Acosta went back to his apartment where he wrapped the murder weapon in his bloody shirt. Acosta was arrested by law enforcement shortly thereafter. The events were witnessed by several children playing in the apartment complex, including the younger brothers of both the victim and Acosta. Acosta admitted that he had planned a "homicide," yet insisted that he did not intend to kill the victim, but rather "teach him a lesson."

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Conflicts are inevitable, but violence should never be the answer. Violence only breeds more pain and suffering, tearing apart communities and families."

Sentencing is set for January 9, 2024, before Superior Court Judge John Lua. Acosta faces up to 15 years to Life plus 1 year in prison.

Sergio Acosta:

