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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Parole Denied for Convicted Kidnapper and Rapist Javier Woolrich
CDC #V16957; Kern County Court Case #BF101801A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to 63-year-old convicted kidnapper and rapist Javier Woolrich. On May 22, 2024, BPH found that Woolrich continued to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

Woolrich's sexual assault crimes spanned a two-year period between 2000 and 2002 and included four female victims.

In October of 2000, two sisters went to the Arroyo Bar in Delano. Woolrich approached the women and offered them a ride to a different bar. The women agreed, but once in the vehicle, Woolrich locked the doors and would not let them out when they asked. Woolrich instead drove to an agricultural area where he tied one woman's arms behind her back and raped her two times. The other woman was able to flee through the vineyard and make contact with a Tulare County Sheriff Deputy. Woolrich was unable to be located.

In October of 2002, Woolrich pretended to be an undercover police officer. He had a "badge" and handcuffs. He placed the victim in the back of his car and drove her out to agricultural fields in Delano. The victim questioned Woolrich's identity but was ultimately driven out to an almond orchard. When the victim was able to get out of the handcuffs, she attempted to escape and fight off Woolrich. After being beat multiple times and getting thrown down as Woolrich attempted to rape her, the victim was eventually able to flee. Woolrich drove off in his car.

In December of 2002, Woolrich saw the fourth victim walking on the street in Bakersfield around midnight. Woolrich stopped and offered her a ride. The victim accepted. When they drove past their destination, the victim started yelling and demanded to be let out of the car. Woolrich grabbed her by the

hair and a struggle ensued. Ultimately, Woolrich raped the victim. After he completed the rape, Woolrich used methamphetamine. As a ruse to escape, the victim told Woolrich she knew where he could get more methamphetamine. Once they arrived at a new location, the victim convinced Woolrich to stay in the car. After she got out of the car, she fled and hid in a bush. The victim spotted a patrol vehicle and flagged down the officer. Woolrich was arrested still sitting inside his car waiting for the victim's return. At the time of his arrest, he was found in possession of methamphetamine.

On November 5, 2003, a Kern County Jury found Woolrich guilty of kidnapping with the intent to commit rape, kidnapping, rape, and assault for the crimes he committed in October of 2000. The jury also found true the special allegation that the inmate bound the victim. He was also found guilty of kidnapping with the intent to commit rape and attempted rape for the crimes committed in October of 2002. In addition, the jury found him guilty of kidnapping with the intent to commit rape, rape, and possession of methamphetamine for the crime he committed in December of 2002. The jury also found true the special allegation that the inmate bound the victim.

On December 2, 2003, a Kern County Judge sentenced Woolrich to 8 years, 8 months, 50 years to life, and an additional life term with the possibility of parole.

On May 22, 2024, the BPH conducted Woolrich's initial parole hearing. At the time of the hearing, Woolrich had served less than 50% of his sentence. Woolrich, age 63, is being considered for early release pursuant to Elder Parole Laws. In California, incarcerated persons are eligible for the Elderly Parole Program after reaching age 50 and being continuously incarcerated for 20 years.

At his parole hearing, the commissioners focused on his insight into his drug and alcohol abuse and sexual history. Woolrich was questioned about his insight into his crimes, particularly the sexually deviant, violent, and predatory nature of his crimes. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Woolrich was not suitable for parole and posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society. The BPH has the option of denying an inmate parole for a period of 15, 10, 7, 5 or 3 years. Woolrich's commissioners issued a three-year denial. As such, Woolrich's next parole hearing date could potentially be in 18 months.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Woolrich is a prime example of why this office fights tirelessly to ensure that accountability is upheld and public safety is prioritized. Someone who caused drastic damage and has only served a fraction of their sentence should never have the opportunity of freedom."