



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

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:

DDA Gina Nargie
(661) 868-2340
DDA David McKillop
(661) 868-2330

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Parole Denied for Attempted Rapist and Three Striker Ahmad Erakat
CDC #K14004; Kern County Court Case #SC056247A and SC063306A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted attempted rapist and three striker Ahmad Erakat, age 54. On May 17, 2024, BPH found that Erakat continued to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On October 27, 1993, law enforcement received a call from a female victim who reported that Erakat tried to rape her. The victim explained that Erakat was an acquaintance who was supposed to perform mechanical repairs on her car. While at Erakat's home, he and the victim consumed beer together. When Erakat started acting strangely, the victim wanted to leave but Erakat got agitated and angry with the victim. He told her she was not going anywhere and to drink her beer. Again, the victim attempted to leave and Erakat physically assaulted her. Erakat slammed her up against the living room wall, strangled her to the ground, and began dragging her to the bedroom. The victim fought back. As the victim was trying to fight off Erakat, he got on top of her and forcefully tried to remove her pants while trying to kiss her. The victim continued to fight Erakat and eventually escaped. As a result of Erakat's attempts to rape the victim, she sustained injuries. In addition, the law enforcement officer specifically noted that the victim's lip was "busted."

On August 12, 1994, Erakat pled guilty to felony assault with the intent to commit rape. He was sentenced to county jail and placed on felony probation for five years. Less than a year later on April 11, 1995, Erakat was found in possession of methamphetamine and was arrested.

After Erakat's 1995 arrest, the Kern County District Attorney's Office proceeded to trial under the Three Strikes Law in California. This law significantly increases the prison sentences of persons convicted of felonies who have been previously convicted of a violent or serious felony and limits the ability of these offenders to receive a punishment other than a prison sentence. A Kern County Jury found Erakat guilty of possession of methamphetamine and found true that that he suffered three prior serious or violent felony convictions. Those convictions included residential burglary in 1990, assault with a deadly weapon

in 1990, and assault with intent to commit rape in 1993. This Kern County Jury verdict ended Erakat's 17-year string of prolific convictions that started in 1978.

On June 26, 1996, a Kern County Judge sentenced Erakat to a total term of 32 years to life in prison. The sentence included assault with intent to commit rape, possession of methamphetamine, a prior prison commitment within the last 5 years, and Erakat's prior strike offenses.

On May 17, 2024, the Board of Parole conducted Erakat's fourth parole hearing. At the parole hearing, the commissioners focused on Erakat's mental health, rehabilitative programming, institutional behavior, and release plans. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH has the option of denying an inmate parole for a period of 15, 10, 7, 5 or 3 years. Erakat's commissioners issued a three-year denial. As such, Erakat's next parole hearing date could potentially be in 18 months.