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Man Sentenced to 13 Years in Prison for Threats Against Motel Employees
People v. Juan Imperial: Kern County Superior Court Case BF195816A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced the successful sentencing today of a defendant who was found guilty last month of criminal threats. On August 20, 2024, in a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Jaycie Knox, a Kern County jury found defendant Juan Imperial guilty of the three felony charges: two counts of criminal threats and one count of attempted criminal threats. On September 20, 2024, Imperial was sentenced to the maximum sentence of 13 years in prison for his crimes.

For the better part of a year, Juan Imperial exacted revenge against his ex-girlfriend by calling both her and the motel that she worked at in Bakersfield. During this time, the defendant would show up to the motel acting aggressively towards staff, would stand across the street and watch the employees for long periods of time, and would call the motel incessantly – sometimes dozens of times in a day. On many of these phone calls, Imperial would make threats towards staff and would describe what he observed them doing inside the business as he watched from across the street.

In May of 2023, Imperial's actions escalated. On May 17, 2023, he placed a call to the front desk of the business. When the front desk worker answered, Imperial explained to her that he knew that her boyfriend would be picking her up from work that day and that her young children would be in the vehicle. Imperial then threatened that he would ram his vehicle into hers when she got off work, specifically the side of the vehicle that her children were on.

On May 24, 2023, Imperial again called the motel. He first called the front desk and threatened to beat up the front desk worker. He then called the motel manager directly. He told her that he had a firearm and threatened that he was coming down to the motel to "shoot it up" and anyone that was inside.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented: "For far too long, Imperial not only targeted his former romantic partner, but also created an atmosphere of fear for those around her. It became clear that no one was safe, but thankfully this sentence serves as protection for many."

Juan Imperial:

