



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

KENNETH M. RUSSELL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

June 24, 2025
MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
DDA Joe L. Alindajao
(661) 746-7551

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by: CJZ
Press Release 25-75

Jury Finds Gonzales Guilty of Domestic Violence Related Charges

People v. Jonatan Danial Covarrubias Gonzales: Kern County Superior Court Case SF021620A

(Shafter) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction. On June 18, 2025, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Joe L. Alindajao, a Kern County jury found Defendant Jonatan Danial Covarrubias Gonzales guilty of one count of Kidnapping, Dissuading a Witness, Spousal Battery, False Imprisonment with Violence, Possession of a Controlled Substance, and Violation of a Domestic Relations Court Order. In a court trial on June 23, 2025, several circumstances in aggravation were also found true.

At approximately 10:00p.m. on August 17, 2024, the victim and her niece attended a house party in Shafter. While at the event, the victim began receiving numerous text messages and phone calls from Gonzales, her ex-boyfriend. Around 3:30a.m., the victim, her niece, and a male friend left the party in the friend's vehicle.

Upon arrival at the niece's apartment, the victim and her niece exited the vehicle but immediately reentered when they saw Gonzales running toward them. Gonzales then pursued them in his own vehicle, initiating a high-speed chase through several Shafter streets. During the chase, Gonzales attempted to force their vehicle off the road and threatened to shoot the friend if he did not stop the vehicle. The driver eventually pulled over along the shoulder of Central Valley Highway. Gonzales exited his vehicle, forcibly removed the victim—who was actively resisting and yelling for help—and placed her into his own vehicle. Gonzales then drove her to her residence while she repeatedly begged to be released. Upon arrival, she attempted to escape by running to her own vehicle, but Gonzales stopped her. The victim fled on foot, but Gonzales pursued and pushed her to the ground, causing injuries. Officers with the Shafter Police Department arrived moments later and apprehended Gonzales at the scene. Upon a search of his vehicle, Gonzales was also found in possession of methamphetamine.

Just hours after the incident and while Gonzales was in custody, he repeatedly called the victim to drop the charges and told her not to show up to court, all while he violated the emergency protective order issued after the incident.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “This incident is a powerful reminder of the serious and often devastating impacts of domestic violence. Thankfully, the victim was able to escape a rapidly escalating situation and will remain safe as Gonzales faces the legal consequences.”

Sentencing is set for August 26, 2025, in Department B of the Kern County Superior Court - Shafter before the Honorable Judge Marcos Camacho. Gonzales faces up to 8 years, 8 months in prison.

Anyone experiencing domestic violence is encouraged to contact the [Kern County Family Justice Center](#). All services are free and there is no appointment necessary.

Jonatan Danial Covarrubias Gonzales:

