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July 2, 2025
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by CJZ
Press Release #25-79

Board of Parole Hearings Denies Convicted Murderer Early Release
CDCR #V88244; Court Case #BF108835A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted murderer Jose Martinez-Millan. On June 27, 2025, BPH found that Martinez-Millan continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney’s Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On December 31, 2004, Martinez-Millan went to a gathering, attended by families and children, to celebrate the New Year. At the party, Martinez-Millan told his wife he wanted to go home. His wife told him she wanted to stay with her brothers because they were all having fun. She refused to leave with him. Martinez-Millan then grabbed her by the hair and shirt and told her “Let’s go.” The wife refused as she was afraid she would get “beat up” when they got home. When family members intervened, Martinez-Millan left alone.

Martinez-Millan returned to the party with a shotgun that held six rounds. From his vehicle, he screamed for his wife to come outside the residence. When that didn’t work, he entered the residence and shot through the bedroom door where his wife and brothers-in-law were hiding. The shot struck one of his brothers-in-law in the shoulder. Martinez-Millan returned outside where his friend, Francisco Martinez, attempted to calm him down. However, Martinez-Millan shot his friend in the head, killing him. Next, Martinez-Millan fired at the second brother-in-law, but the victim ducked and barely missed the bullet. Martinez-Millan then turned to the third brother-in-law, also his best friend, and said “There’s going to be some for you also.” Although the victim attempted to get out of the way, one of the two shots hit him on the left side of his face and “blew off” part of his lower jaw. The victim required reconstructive surgery and was hospitalized for months. Martinez-Millan once again entered the residence and demanded his wife exit the bedroom as he threatened to kill her. Ultimately, he aimed the shotgun at her and fired. She was able to get down to the ground and avoid the shot.

On June 2, 2005, a Kern County Jury found Martinez-Millan guilty of murder in the first degree, two counts of attempted murder, and one count of assault with a firearm. The jury also found true that Martinez-Millan intentionally and personally discharged a firearm in the commission of both the murder and attempted murders.

On June 30, 2005, a Kern County Judge sentenced him to 85 years to life, plus 17 years. According to CDCR records, Martinez-Millan's minimum eligible parole date is August 15, 2086. However, under California Elder Parole Laws, he is eligible for early release. Martinez-Millan is 62 years old and has served 20 years.

On June 27, 2025, the BPH conducted Martinez-Millan's first parole hearing. The commissioners focused on his history of domestic violence, rehabilitative programming particularly in the area of domestic violence, and substance abuse history. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Martinez-Millan 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. Martinez-Millan's commissioners issued a three-year denial.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Martinez-Millan is prematurely eligible for parole despite the danger he poses and the severity of his multiple-victim crime. We are committed to exhausting every avenue to prevent his release and ensure justice is upheld."

Jose Martinez-Millan:

