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Habitual Sexual Offender Convicted, Facing Life in Prison Without Parole
People v. Sergio Venegas: Kern County Superior Court Case BF189958A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction today. In a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Christine Antonios, a Kern County jury found Defendant Sergio Venegas guilty of six felony counts, including kidnapping with the intent to commit robbery and/or oral copulation, assault with the intent to commit oral copulation, assault with force likely to cause great bodily injury, sexual battery, robbery and resisting arrest. Additionally, Venegas was convicted of personally using a deadly weapon, being a habitual sexual offender, having multiple prison prior convictions, and committing the crimes with multiple aggravating factors.

At approximately 9:00pm on May 2, 2022, the female victim finished her work shift. While walking home on a sidewalk on Ming Avenue, Venegas grabbed the victim and dragged her behind the bushes. Venegas then used a knife to force the victim to her knees while demanding oral sex. The victim resisted and was eventually able to escape by getting help from an employee at a neighboring business. Before the victim fled, Venegas stole her watch, wedding ring, and backpack.

Police quickly located Venegas, who was found in possession of the victim's stolen property. Venegas was also wearing an ankle monitor as he was on active parole with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. GPS data from that ankle monitor, as well as video surveillance from the area, identified Venegas as the attacker.

Venegas was previously tried and convicted in Kern County for rape, forced oral copulation, forced digital penetration, assault with a deadly weapon, and robbery. That conviction was for an incident that occurred in 1989 where Venegas forced his way into a female victim's room at The Red Lion Hotel and sexually assaulted her. After the sexual assault, Venegas fled the hotel room leaving the victim naked, gagged, and hogtied. DNA evidence tied Venegas to the crimes and upon his conviction in 1999, he was sentenced to 55 years in state prison. Despite his lengthy prison sentence, Venegas was paroled in July 2021.

Assistant District Attorney Joseph Kinzel commented; “This perpetrator is a historically dangerous individual who due to lenient early release laws, had the opportunity to harm another innocent victim. With this conviction, Venegas is rightfully facing life in prison without the possibility of parole, ensuring he can never threaten our community again. I sincerely thank the jury for their careful and thoughtful consideration.”

Sentencing is set for October 10, 2025, before Superior Court Judge David Zulfa in Department 18 of the Kern County Superior Court. Venegas faces life without parole.

Sergio Venegas:

