



**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

JAMES D. SIMSON
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

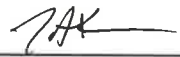
CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

February 1, 2019

MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
DDA Jessica Hartnett
(661) 868-2709

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by 

Re: Jury Verdict for Jose Huape Fuentes

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant verdict in a child molestation and rape case today. On January 31, 2019, a Kern County jury found the defendant, Jose Huape Fuentes, guilty of two felony charges of sexual intercourse with a child aged 10 years or younger; one felony charge of continuous sexual abuse of a child under age 14, two felony counts of rape by force or fear of a minor, and a felony count of lewd acts with a child under age 14 with force. The jury also found the crimes involved multiple victims. Additionally, the jury found that one victim was kidnapped for the purpose of rape.

The case was investigated by the Kern County Sheriff's Department in January of 2018, and was prosecuted by Deputy DA Jessica Hartnett, who leads the Sexual Assault Unit of the District Attorney's Office. The sentencing for the case is scheduled for March 6, 2019, at which point the defendant faces a possible life sentence as a result of the convictions.

Informed of the verdict, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented that "All victims of sexual assault should know that our Victim's Services Unit is here to help survivors of sexual assault, and our prosecutors are dedicated to holding sexual predators accountable for their crimes."

The case was prosecuted under court case SF 019123 A.