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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Re: Jury Trial Conviction: *People v. Julio Angel Torrez Jr.* BF176040A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant Felony jury trial conviction today involving attempted voluntary manslaughter in a domestic violence incident. On October 27, 2020, a Kern County Jury found Julio Angel Torrez Jr., guilty of Attempted Voluntary Manslaughter; Assault with a Deadly Weapon; Domestic Violence; and misdemeanor Child Abuse.

On March 20, 2019, the female victim and Julio Angel Torrez Jr., were overheard arguing inside of an apartment unit. Later that night, at about 11:00 P.M. neighbors reported screaming from the female victim. Witnesses observed the victim running down the stairs from her apartment unit with her two children, ages 11 and 4. Soon after exiting her apartment the victim collapsed due to her injuries. Witnesses further saw the Defendant fleeing from the victim's apartment. Thankfully, a witness to the incident had previous medical training, and was able to immediately begin first aid while emergency responders were summoned. The victim had suffered three stab wounds: one in the arm, one in the chest, and another stab wound in her heart. Responding officers searched the victim's apartment and found blood on the walls, a discarded kitchen knife used in the stabbing, and identifying information of Torrez.

Having left his identification in the victim's apartment after the stabbing, the next day, on March 21, 2019, Torrez went to the DMV to get a new identification card. While at the DMV, Torrez was contacted by officers of the Highway Patrol, during which Torrez resisted arrest and gave a false name. Upon his arrest, Officers observed has three horizontal cuts on Torrez' hand, consistent with offensive use of a stabbing type weapon, and the three stab wounds suffered by the victim.

After extensive medical attention, the victim was able to survive the incident and was discharged from the hospital. Immediately after being discharged, the victim began receiving phone calls from Torrez while he was in the local jail on the pending charges. Torrez called the victim hundreds of times, and made explicit demands of the victim to not to talk to law enforcement; not to speak to the Kern County District Attorney's Office; and not to come to court.

The victim did not testify at the Jury Trial.

Advised of the conviction, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented, “The victim opened up her home to Torrez and he repaid her with a knife to the heart. After nearly killing her, Torrez had the audacity to contact the victim hundreds of times to dissuade her from testifying at trial. In his effort to coerce the victim not to testify, Torrez made abundantly clear that he was responsible for this vicious attack, and his own words proved to be more powerful evidence than even the testimony he sought to prevent. October is Domestic Violence awareness month, and this conviction is demonstrative of the efforts that the District Attorney’s Office pursues to ensure justice in cases of domestic violence.”

The trial was prosecuted by DDA Bradley King, and sentencing is scheduled before Judge David Lampe on December 2, 2020 in Department 18. At sentencing, Torrez faces as much as 23 years in prison as a result of the convictions.