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Jury Trial Conviction: Joseph Luis Perez: SF020049A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a jury verdict in a shooting case today. On May 13th, 2021, in a case prosecuted by Deputy DA Kacie Barrier, a Kern County jury found defendant Jose Luis Perez guilty of eight felony charges, including: assault with a semiautomatic firearm, assault with a deadly weapon, criminal threats, negligent discharge of a firearm, malicious discharge of a firearm from a motor vehicle, felon in possession of a firearm, felon in possession of ammunition, and possession of methamphetamine while in possession of a loaded firearm. The charges relate primarily to an assault against Perez' brother-in-law.

On August 9, 2020, Kern County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a ranch property in Wasco, CA. Deputies contacted the victim and other witnesses who stated that Perez pointed a loaded firearm at the victim and threatened to kill him. Perez then drove away but fired numerous rounds from his vehicle. Perez then returned to the property and attempted to stab the victim. Perez finally fled to his girlfriend's residence where he hid the firearm. Upon his arrest, Perez was found to be in possession of a gun, ammunition, and methamphetamine.

Advised of the verdict, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented: "Career criminals with long histories of violent crime that continue to reoffend are why three strikes laws are vital to public safety. Perez has failed to heed the lessons from prior convictions and has repeatedly endangered the lives of others. This conviction should ensure that he is not allowed to threaten public safety again."

Perez is facing a potential sentence of 25 years to life plus 29 years 4 months, due in part to two prior "strike" convictions for robbery and assault with a firearm on a peace officer. Sentencing is scheduled before the Honorable Judge Dulcich on June 11, 2021 in Department 2 of the Kern County Superior Court.