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PRESS RELEASE

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Jury Trial Convictions For Conspiracy To Commit Murder and Attempted Murder: Antonio Diaz and Mariano Diaz: SF019775A+B

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a major jury trial conviction today. Late last week, on May 20, 2021, a Kern County jury found both Antonio Diaz and Mariano Diaz guilty of conspiracy to commit murder, premeditated attempted murder, first-degree burglary, assault with a deadly weapon, false imprisonment with violence, and child abuse likely to cause great bodily injury in an October 2019 crime of domestic violence. The case was prosecuted by DDA Cole Sherman.

On October 20, 2019 at about 10:15 p.m., Antonio Diaz snuck into his ex-girlfriend's home in Wasco, hid in the master bathroom, and waited for her to return from work. The victim and her ten-year-old daughter got home at about 10:30 p.m. When they entered the bedroom, Antonio Diaz emerged from the bathroom and begged the victim to get back together with him. When she refused, Antonio Diaz yelled out, "Action! Kill her!" At that point, Antonio Diaz' brother, Mariano Diaz, who had been waiting just outside the door, rushed into the bedroom and attacked the victim. Mariano Diaz stabbed at and cut the victim's throat and face with a knife causing a deep wound to the victim's neck and multiple cuts to her face. The victim used her arms to try and block his attack in an attempt to push Mariano Diaz away and suffered multiple knife wounds to her forearm as a result. While Mariano Diaz was attempting to murder the victim, Antonio Diaz chased after the victim's ten-year-old daughter, who ran outside to try and call for help. Antonio Diaz caught up to the girl, grabbed her by her hair, and threw her down to the ground, causing her head to strike the concrete and the girl to lose consciousness. Antonio and Mariano Diaz then fled the area. After the attack, the victim stumbled to her front yard while bleeding heavily from her neck and was able to contact her neighbors, who called 911 and helped her.

Deputies from the Kern County Sheriff's Department and medical personnel responded to the residence. The victim was airlifted by helicopter to Kern Medical where she received treatment for her injuries.

Advised of the verdict, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Crimes of unspeakable domestic violence can occur in all parts of Kern County, and we have attorneys that specialize in domestic violence cases to ensure that murder conspiracies and attempted killings like this one do not go unpunished. A conspiracy to commit murder is punished on the same level as a completed murder, and for good reason – when criminals join together in a goal to commit a crime, it is more likely that the crime will actually be carried out than if they act alone. Fortunately, the victims in this case survived, but not without substantial injury and unforgettable trauma."

Antonio and Mariano Diaz face up to 30 years to life in prison at their sentencing. Sentencing is scheduled for June 18, 2021 before the Honorable Charles Brehmer.