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Jury Trial Conviction For Sexual Molestation of Children: Barcimeo Candelaria: Case LF12907A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant child molestation conviction today. In a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Samantha Allen, a Kern County jury found defendant Barcimeo Merino Candelaria guilty of 3 counts of child sexual molestation against two victims, including multiple victim and kidnapping enhancements.

Between July 1, 2019 and November 20, 2019, Candelaria sexually molested an 11 year old victim. On one occasion, Candelaria kidnapped the victim deceptively telling her that they were going to pick up his paycheck. After taking her to a remote location in Taft, he sexually assaulted her. On another occasion, he had sexual intercourse with that same victim inside the victim's home.

On November 20, 2019, Candelaria sexually molested a second 11-year old victim. On this occasion, he told the victim that he would give her a ride home, and instead took her to another remote location in Taft where he attempted to have sexual intercourse with her. This victim fought Candelaria and was left with bruising to her arms. DNA evidence linked Candelaria to the victim.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, "Sexual abuse against children has some of the highest sentences in the law. Candelaria preyed on multiple children and now convicted he faces life in prison without the possibility of parole. Child sexual predators leave untold trauma and victimization in their wake that forever alter the lives of their victims."

Sentencing is set for January 18, 2022 before the Honorable John Brownlee. Candelaria faces a sentence of life without the possibility of parole.

Barcimeo Candelaria:

