

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Benjamin T. Ladinig, Sr. Deputy District Attorney

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

Re: *People v. Daniel Jiang Chen; Case No. 1493184*

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that Daniel J. Chen pled guilty to two separate crimes of forcible rape as well as robbery and personally inflicting great bodily injury upon the victim, all while in the commission of a kidnap for the purposes of rape.

During the early morning hours of February 23, 2014, Daniel Chen took the victim to a remote location of UCSB between the track and the tennis courts, and kept her there by force, despite her attempt to escape. He then battered the victim and raped her. After doing so he robbed her of her cell phone. Chen then fled the crime scene and did not return.

After a 911 call was placed at approximately 4 a.m., medics and law enforcement personnel arrived to find the victim badly beaten. For several days, multiple law enforcement agencies, including the University of California Police Department, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, and Search and Rescue personnel searched Isla Vista and UCSB in an effort to locate the crime scene and witnesses.

Through the efforts of Sheriff's Detective Joseph Schmidt and UCPD Detective Dawn Arviso, several victim interviews were conducted in attempts to pin point a crime scene.

On the morning February 26, 2014, UCSB Detectives Matt Bly and Rory Sheehey located the crime scene, only days prior to a major rain storm. There he located significant items of evidence. These items were hand delivered to the Department of Justice crime lab in Goleta, and were analyzed for DNA by criminalists who voluntarily came in to work over the weekend. As a result of the hard work and scientific expertise of Senior Criminalist Carla Levi, a full male DNA profile was found on numerous items of evidence and uploaded in the California DNA database.

For nearly two years the crime remained unsolved. During this time, the DNA of over 20 suspected involved persons was tested against the male profile found at the crime scene without success. In February 2016, DOJ's DNA lab was notified that the State database found a match to Daniel Chen. He was then arrested shortly thereafter and transported to Santa Barbara.

The successful investigation of this case by Santa Barbara County's law enforcement agencies, in conjunction with the detailed scientific work conducted by criminalists at the DOJ crime lab, made this prosecution possible.

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Despite the protracted injuries sustained by the victim, she has bravely persevered, healed, returned to school and successfully graduated UCSB.

According to District Attorney Joyce Dudley, "The victim/survivor is a true hero and a testament to all survivors of sexual assault. Both she and her family indicated to prosecuting attorney, Sr. Deputy District Attorney Ben Ladinig, that they were very pleased with the outcome of the case, and thankful to the law enforcement community."

Daniel Chen is scheduled to be sentenced to 36 years in prison on October 20, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 1 of the Santa Barbara County Superior Court, the Honorable James E. Herman presiding.

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