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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
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APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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September 9, 2015

RE: *People v. Juan Carlos Herrera-Romero and Gabino Andres Romero, Case Number 1447092*

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that two juries in Santa Barbara returned guilty verdicts against Juan Carlos Herrera-Romero, age 31, and Gabino Andres Romero, age 27, for the July 16, 2014 sexual assault of a woman on East Beach in Santa Barbara.

The trial consisted of two juries for the defendants to meet state and federal constitutional requirements. One jury convicted Herrera-Romero of four felony charges including conspiracy to commit rape, rape in concert, forcible rape, and forcible oral copulation in concert. The Herrera-Romero jury also found that Herrera-Romero personally used a knife in the commission of the sexual assault.

The second jury convicted Gabino Andres Romero of four felony counts as well, including rape in concert, forcible rape, forcible oral copulation in concert, and criminal threats against the sexual assault victim's companion who was present. The Gabino Andres Romero jury additionally found that Romero personally used a knife during the commission of the sexual assault and criminal threats.

The use of a knife during the commission of a forcible sex crime makes each defendant eligible for a life sentence under California's One Strike Law. Both defendants will be sentenced on October 7, 2015 by the Honorable Rick Brown. Herrera-Romero faces a maximum sentence of 54 years to life in state prison. Gabino Andres Romero faces a maximum sentence of 36 years to life in state prison.

After watching the hard-working jury deliver the verdicts related to these horrendous crimes, District Attorney Joyce Dudley stated, "As a result of the exemplary investigative work on the part of the Santa Barbara Police Department and the eventual prosecution by Senior Deputy District Attorney Mary Barron, both defendants will spend the rest of their lives in prison and hopefully these highly vulnerable survivors will begin their healing process."

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