

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



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APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley*, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

October 2, 2014

Re: *The People of the State of California v. Jose Antonio Aviles*; Case No. 1398080

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that Jose Antonio Aviles, age 35, was sentenced to 24 years, 8 months in state prison and ordered to pay restitution to the victims in the amount of \$804,925. This sentence was the result of a plea relating to a take-over style robbery of a Milpas Street jewelry store.

On April 7, 2010, Jose Antonio Aviles, Jose Angel Magdaleno, and two other suspects robbed a jewelry store on Milpas Street. During the course of the robbery, the suspects took the store owner, his wife, and an elderly employee into the back storeroom at gunpoint, bound them with zip ties and duct tape, and stole over \$750,000 in jewelry and cash. Before leaving, Aviles threatened to kill the store owner if he "called the cops." The robbery was captured on video, but no suspects were developed until the investigation turned up positive DNA evidence on a few items left behind by the suspects.

Aviles and Magdaleno were also the suspects in a similar take-over style robbery of a jewelry store in San Diego. Aviles was identified in that case, arrested, convicted, and sentenced to state prison. Aviles' DNA was obtained and it matched the DNA from an item found at the scene of the Milpas Street robbery, as did that of Magdaleno. Aviles was thereafter arrested on the Santa Barbara case. Magdaleno is believed to have fled to Mexico. The two other suspects remain unknown. Aviles was brought back to Santa Barbara in January 2013. Approaching trial, Aviles pled on July 15, 2014, to three counts of robbery, one for each victim; a single count of dissuading a witness; and gun enhancements on each of the three robbery charges.

District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley commends the extraordinary efforts of the Santa Barbara Police Department for their thorough investigation and for pursuing every possible lead in this case until Aviles was identified and apprehended. District Attorney Dudley, along with prosecuting Deputy District Attorney Anthony Davis, also extend a heartfelt thanks to the victims in this case, who assisted law enforcement and the District Attorney's Office throughout this horrendous ordeal, which resulted in the arrest and conviction of a very violent and dangerous individual.

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