

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 \*\*\*\*\*

February 25, 2015

**Re: *People v. Ryan Christopher Zietlow-Brown; Case No. 1397864***

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced that Ryan Christopher Zietlow-Brown was sentenced today to 22 years 4 months in state prison.

Defendant Zietlow-Brown pled no contest January 6, 2015, to felony charges of Attempted Murder and Mayhem. The defendant also admitted a special allegation that he personally used a pair of scissors as a deadly weapon during the attack and admitted he committed the offenses for the benefit of, at the direction of, and in association with neo-Nazi Skinheads, a White Supremacist gang. The defendant further acknowledged that the offenses were hate crimes in violation of Penal Code section 422.75 and admitted the convictions constituted two strike convictions under the Three Strikes Law.

The offenses occurred on August 12, 2011, during lunchtime on State Street in Santa Barbara. Testimony from witnesses at a March 2013 preliminary hearing indicated the victim, an African-American man, was walking on State Street midday with a white male co-worker. Both were singing a rap song by a well-known African-American rap group. The defendant approached and asked the victim if "the boy with him was white," and the victim replied, "Yes, why are you asking?" The defendant said, "Tell him to . . . [expletive] start acting like it." The victim told the defendant to mind his own business and proceeded to McDonald's for lunch. As the victim and his coworker were walking back to work, the defendant approached them a second time, only this time with a pair of scissors. The defendant attacked the victim, stabbing him multiple times in the head with the pair of scissors and fled the area. The defendant was identified by witnesses and subsequently arrested. Witnesses described the assailant to police as a man with a shaved head and visible gang tattoos.

Superior Court Judge Brian Hill said today there was no doubt in his mind these acts were hate crimes and defendant's actions constituted premeditated attempted murder. The victim addressed the court and indicated he had never seen the defendant prior to the attack which nearly cost him his life.

The defendant asserted to the court he was a "changed man" now, but acknowledged to the court he was a Skinhead and affiliated with White Power at the time he committed the crimes. Prosecuting attorney, Senior Deputy District Attorney Kimberly Siegel cited several pieces of evidence for the court which were discovered during the investigation, revealing defendant's strong beliefs and ties to White Supremacist and neo-Nazi Skinheads prior to and during the attack. Siegel said, "A dangerous, violent man imbued with racist beliefs and ideologies has been removed from the streets for a very long time." District Attorney Dudley added, "Hate-motivated crimes affect not just crime victims and their loved ones, but our entire community. It is incumbent upon all of us to insist that racism, in any form, not be tolerated in Santa Barbara County."

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