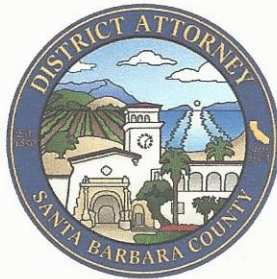


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 05-307

RELEASE NUMBER

May 18, 2015

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley*, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Ben Ladinig, Deputy District Attorney

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

May 18, 2015

Re: *People v. Santos J. Guevara-Oliva*

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that in Department 12 of the Santa Barbara County Superior Court, before the Honorable Michel J. Carrozzo presiding, Santos J. Guevara-Oliva was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. This sentence follows a March 2015 verdict wherein a Santa Barbara jury convicted Guevara-Oliva of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child Under 14 years of Age and Forcible Rape. In addition, the jury found true the special allegation that Guevara-Oliva personally inflicted great bodily injury upon the child in the commission of the crimes; to wit, he impregnated the 13-year old victim during the rape.

According to District Attorney Joyce Dudley, "This is the first sentence of its kind in the history of Santa Barbara County. The significance of this sentence is that prosecuting attorney Ben Ladinig has now ensured that this defendant will never be able to hurt another child and will spend the rest of his life in state prison without the possibility of ever being paroled."

In sentencing Santos Guevara-Oliva to life without the possibility of parole, Judge Carrozzo denied the defendant's contention of cruel and unusual punishment and noted that the sentence was appropriate given the violent nature of the crime that was committed on a vulnerable young child. Judge Carrozzo also noted the resilience of both the young female victims who testified to the sexual abuse at the hands of Guevara-Oliva.

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