




GREGORY D. TOTTE
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NEWS RELEASE

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Oxnard Man Sentenced to 23 Years to Life In Prison for Kidnapping and Attempting to Kill His Spouse

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Judge Anthony Sabo sentenced Gustavo Diaz (DOB 01/31/1988), of Oxnard, to 23 years to life in prison for crimes committed against his spouse including premeditated attempted murder and kidnapping. Diaz faced a maximum possible sentence of 28 years to life.

On December 10, 2015, Diaz forced the victim into her car at knifepoint. Diaz drove erratically throughout the county while threatening to kill the victim. The victim attempted to jump out of the car and yell for help while stopped at a red light in the city of Fillmore, but Diaz forcibly pulled the victim back into the car and sped away. While driving east on Highway 126, Diaz stabbed the victim multiple times in the chest, arm and back while continuing to threaten her life. The victim eventually jumped out of the moving vehicle in an effort to save her own life. The victim's injuries required surgery to repair. Diaz disposed of the knife and the victim's car in a remote canyon in Los Angeles County.

On August 22, 2019, a jury convicted Diaz of premeditated attempted murder, kidnapping, inflicting corporal injury on a spouse, assault with a deadly weapon and criminal threats. The jury also found that Diaz had personally inflicted great bodily injury upon the victim and personally used a deadly weapon.

The case was investigated by the Oxnard Police Department, the Ventura County Sheriff's Office and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The case was prosecuted by the District Attorney's Sexual Assault and Family Protection Unit.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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