ERIK NASARENKO
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE

Follow us @VenturaCountyDA
DA.VenturaCounty.gov

Contact: Joey Buttitta
Title: Communications Manager/PIO
Phone: (805) 767-3400
Email: Joey.Buttitta@venturacounty.gov

Approved: SW
Date: November 17, 2026
Release No.: 26-171

Third-Strike Offender Sentenced to 61 Years to Life in Prison For Domestic Violence with a Firearm in Ventura Encampment

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Yanci Mcclay Dakin (DOB 04/26/80), of Ventura, was sentenced to 61 years to life in state prison for a domestic violence attack on his girlfriend. Dakin was previously convicted by a jury on October 15, 2026, of inflicting corporal injury on a cohabitant, assault with a firearm, criminal threats, and discharging of a firearm with gross negligence. Several special allegations and aggravating factors were found to be true, including that Dakin had a previous conviction for causing corporal injury, was armed with and used a weapon, the victim was particularly vulnerable, and that this was his third strike.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Rikole Kelly and Deputy District Attorney Darian Cohen, members of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Unit, prosecuted the case.

"The defendant's repeated acts of violence underscore the very real dangers of domestic abuse," Ms. Kelly said. "A sentence of 61 years to life is warranted to protect the victim and the public from further violence."

Between October 15 and 17, 2025, Dakin was staying with the victim in an encampment near the Santa Clara River in Ventura. Over a three-day period, Dakin beat the victim multiple times, breaking her nose and threatening her with a gun.

On the morning of October 17, 2025, Dakin grabbed his handgun and began looking for someone he believed was outside their camp. He held the gun to the victim's head and face threatening to shoot and kill her. Dakin began firing the gun until he ran out of ammunition. Dakin fled the area and a witness in the encampment called police. Dakin was arrested that evening by the Ventura Police Department.

Case #: 2025026669
Defendant Information:
Yanci Mcclay Dakin (DOB 04/26/80)
Ventura

Charges convicted of:

- PC 273.5(a) – Inflict corporal injury on cohabitant
- PC 245(a)(2) – Assault with a firearm
- PC 422(a) – Criminal threats
- PC 246.3(a) – Discharge of firearm with gross negligence

Special allegations found true:

- PC 1192.7(c)(8) – Serious felony
- PC 273.5(f)(1) – Prior conviction for corporal injury
- PC 667S3 – Prior strike 3
- PC 12022(a)(1) – Principal while principal armed
- PC 1170(h)(3) – Prior serious or violent felony
- PC 1203(e)(4) – Three prior offenses
- CRC 4.421(a)(1) – The crime involved great violence
- CRC 4.421(a)(2) – The defendant was armed with and used a weapon
- CRC 4.421(a)(3) – Victim was vulnerable
- CRC 4.421(b)(2) - The defendant's prior convictions were numerous

