

NEWS RELEASE

SVSP INMATE CONVICTED BY JURY FOR TWO STABBINGS OF FELLOW INMATES

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced that Mario Torres, age 56, an inmate of Salinas Valley State prison, was convicted by a jury of two counts of felony assault, two counts of illegal weapon possession and one count of assault by a life prisoner. Torres was also convicted of one count of inflicting great bodily injury. The jury also found that all the assaults occurred with a deadly weapon making all the assaults strikes under the three strikes law. The attacks all occurred in Salinas Valley State Prison in Soledad, California.

On June 15, 2012, the first inmate victim was walking in the prison yard when he was viciously attacked from behind by Torres. The sneak attack rendered the victim unconscious causing him to fall to the ground on his face. Torres pulled out a stabbing instrument from his waistband and repeatedly stabbed the victim. As a result of the multiple stab wounds, the victim is now permanently paralyzed.

On May 15, 2015, inmate Torres attacked another inmate victim with a stabbing instrument. The attack inflicted multiple puncture wounds to the neck of the second victim. Fortunately, prison staff was able to rescue the second victim who was medically treated and recovered from his wounds.

The defendant is currently serving a life term for murdering the mother of his child.

Torres will be sentenced on June 8, 2016, by Judge Lydia Villarreal who presided at the trial. He faces a maximum of 105 years to life in prison for committing his new crimes. The Investigative Services Unit at Salinas Valley State Prison investigated the case along with District Attorney Investigator Tony Rodriguez.