

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

GONZALES MAN SENTENCED TO SIX YEARS IN PRISON FOR KIDNAPPING, ROBBING WIFE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Matthew L'Heureux, Deputy District Attorney
(831) 755-5267

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Roman Rosas Camacho, age 38 of Gonzales, was sentenced to six years in state prison for inflicting corporal injury to a spouse, kidnapping, robbery, and multiple violations of a criminal protective order. Camacho was sentenced by Monterey Superior Court Judge Carrie M. Panetta after a jury convicted him of the charged offenses in December. The victim of the offenses was Camacho's wife of 15 years.

On November 1, 2014, Camacho got into an argument with his wife about a number he did not recognize on her cell phone bill. Camacho demanded that his wife give him her cell phone, and she refused. When Camacho's wife attempted to leave the apartment, Camacho grabbed her by the hair and took the cell phone from her by force. He then followed her to a relative's apartment, continuing to argue with her. The victim left the apartment on foot while Camacho was in the bathroom. Camacho immediately got into his car and set off looking for her.

Around 4:15 p.m., the victim was walking in front of St. Theodore's Church on S. Belden Street when Camacho found her. Witnesses saw Camacho drive up over the sidewalk and onto the church grass in order to stop next to the victim. Camacho and the victim argued, and he ordered her to get into the car. When she refused, Camacho got out of the car, physically chased her, and jumped onto and over the bed of a parked flatbed truck to intercept her.

Civilian witnesses on scene testified that they saw Camacho forcibly grab his wife by the neck, drag her to the back door of his SUV, force her inside, slam the door, and then immediately drive off with her. Camacho drove an entire block in reverse, in the wrong lane of traffic, in order to get away.

Camacho drove his wife a distance of approximately three to four miles onto Gonzales River Road, where he refused to let her out of the vehicle and struck her, causing injury. Camacho pulled over and let the victim out of the car when he saw a police vehicle in the area. In addition to kidnapping, robbery and inflicting injury to a spouse, Camacho was also convicted of driving without a license and three counts of violating a criminal protective order, which occurred while he was released from custody on bail.

The case was investigated by Gonzales Police Department Corporal Santiago Melgoza, Officers Brian Solis, Cesar Castillo and Jessica Mora, and Investigator Peter Austen of the Monterey County District Attorney's Office.