

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

JURY FINDS SEASIDE MAN GUILTY OF MOLESTING SEVEN VICTIMS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that a jury of eight men and four women found Juan Francisco Gonzalez of Seaside guilty of three counts of lewd act upon a child under the age of fourteen and five counts of continuous sexual abuse upon a child under the age of 14.

The panel deliberated for four hours after hearing testimony from seven victims, ranging in age from nine to seventeen. In 2015, one victim reported that she was touched in 2014 by the defendant. The defendant, her brother's uncle, touched her while she was being babysat in his home which served as a before and after school drop-off site for the children of extended family members.

In the course of two weeks, six more victims came forward to the Seaside Police Department and reported inappropriate sexual contact by the defendant. All victims were forensically interviewed at the Archer Child Advocacy Center Bates-Eldredge Clinic. The interviews determined that Gonzalez, age 57, had been molesting young girls from 2010 through 2015.

Upon hearing of the allegations, the defendant fled to Los Angeles and eventually to his native country of El Salvador. Six months later he returned to the United States and was arrested in Los Angeles on February 2, 2016 on the Monterey County warrant. He has been held in the Monterey County Jail on three-million-dollar bail. All victims bravely testified in court before the defendant and the jury. Five of the girls were accompanied by the District Attorney Comfort Dog "Odie".

Judge Pamela Butler will render sentence on October 25, 2017. Gonzalez faces a maximum sentence of 175 years-to-life.

The case was investigated by Seaside Detective Edwardo Enriquez and DA Investigator Jorge Ramirez.