

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN PLEADS TO MAKING CRIMINAL THREATS AND MULTIPLE COUNTS OF POSSESSION OF A FIREARM AND AMMUNITION BY A FELON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Larry Moses Rodriguez, age 51, a resident of Salinas, pled no contest to four counts of felony charges, including making criminal threats to his wife, and for illegally possessing firearms and ammunition as a felon. In 2007, Rodriguez assaulted his wife by beating her repeatedly during an argument. Specifically, Rodriguez strangled, kicked and stabbed his wife several times with a pocketknife, causing his wife to suffer multiple lacerations, contusions, and blunt force trauma to her head and body. Rodriguez subsequently pled guilty to domestic violence causing great bodily injury, a strike offense, for which he served 8 years in state prison.

Following his release from prison, Rodriguez reunited with his wife. However, his wife, the victim in this case, moved out of their shared residence in August 2017 after Rodriguez began to threaten her and blame her for problems with his children. In September and November 2017, Rodriguez sent several messages to the victim posing with a semiautomatic firearm and telling her that he is going to “wreck her life.” Rodriguez warned the victim that he was going to put her “in so much pain” that she would be “begging” for him to kill her. Rodriguez further told the victim that he knew where she lived and that “everything was set up” for the victim “to meet her maker.” The victim was in fear of her life after she received the threatening messages from Rodriguez. The evidence shows that Rodriguez further intended to shoot the victim and then kill as many police officers as he could before being shot by the police.

Rodriguez’s sentencing hearing is scheduled for January 30, 2018 before the Honorable Julie Culver. He is facing 11 years in state prison.