

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN FOUND GUILTY OF MULTIPLE ARMED ROBBERIES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 3, 2018
CONTACT: STEFANIE ZAMORA**

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on November 29, 2018, Juan Jesus Elias, age 33, a resident of Salinas, was found guilty by jury of eight felony charges including armed robberies, attempted robbery, criminal threats, assault with a firearm, and felon in possession of a firearm.

On December 22, 2017, victim #1 was walking to her work near South Filice Street in Salinas when a vehicle approached her and cut her off. Elias got out of the passenger side of the vehicle, went up to victim #1, and grabbed at her purse. When she did not immediately hand over the purse, Elias put a gun to her stomach and told her that if she did not give him the purse, he would blow off her head. At that time, she handed over her purse and Elias fled.

On December 26, 2017, victim #2 was walking from her house to a laundromat on Williams Road in Salinas with her 10-year-old son. As victim #2 was walking, Elias approached her and started grabbing at her purse. He was unable to take the purse because she was holding a laundry basket with her hands, so he reached towards his waist and told her to give him the purse or he would shoot her and her son. At that time, she screamed for help and her son threw a water bottle at Elias's head. Elias fled without her purse.

On January 26, 2018, victims #3 and #4 waited at a bus stop at E. Laurel and Sanborn Road in Salinas with their children ages 2 and 4. Elias walked up to them and demanded their purses. Victim #3 immediately gave Elias her purse, but victim #4 refused. Elias, pointing an object under his sweatshirt at the women, told victim #4 to give him the purse or he would shoot the children. Victim #4 then gave Elias her purse, and he left in a black Mitsubishi sedan that was waiting for him nearby.

On January 27, 2018, victim #5 along with her sons ages 8 and 5, were walking to the health clinic on North Sanborn Road in Salinas. During the walk, Elias approached the family and grabbed the straps of victim #5's purse. He then put a gun to the 8-year-old's forehead and threatened to shoot him if the mother did not hand over her purse. She handed it over without hesitation.

On January 28, 2018, Elias was pulled over in the black Mitsubishi sedan with his girlfriend. Officers located various stolen property, including victim #3's purse, and victim #5's identification card and cell phone. Officers also located a gun on Elias's girlfriend that matched the description provided to officers by victim #5 and her 8-year-old son.

Sentencing is set for January 11, 2019 where Elias faces up to 30 years and 8 months in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The case was investigated by Officers Jacky Bohn, Samantha Garcia, Luis Dorantes, Steven Hoyt, Jr. and Adolfo Lopez of the Salinas Police Department.