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PRESS RELEASE

February 4, 2019

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JURY CONVICTS 47-YEAR OLD SOLEDAD MAN OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ASSAULT AND FALSE IMPRISONMENT BY VIOLENCE

People v Jose Luis Limon Mata; Case No. 18CR006793

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that Jose Luis Limon Mata was convicted in a jury trial of three felony counts of corporal injury on the mother of his children, assault by means likely to produce great bodily injury and false imprisonment by violence. Mata is now facing 5 years in state prison.

Mata and the victim were in a romantic relationship for many years and had two children together. Mata refused to acknowledge fathering the children but helped pay some of the bills. On July 18, 2018, Mata and the victim had an argument over his infidelity, financial issues and his refusal to acknowledge paternity of his three-year old daughter and twelve-year-old son. During the argument, the victim saw some text messages from another woman on Mata's phone and threw the phone at him. At some point during the argument, the victim got up to leave the living room and Mata followed her and punched her once, causing her to fall onto on the living room floor. Mata then got on top of her and placed one leg over her and held her down. With his left hand, he grabbed her neck and squeezed it tightly, which made it difficult for her to breathe. With his right hand, Mata punched the victim's face and head repeatedly, causing bruising and swelling on her face and a scalp laceration. She scratched Mata with her fingernails trying to get away, but he overpowered her by forcing his body onto hers.

The twelve-year-old boy heard the victim scream and ran into the living room area with a belt. The boy hit Mata with the belt, which caused Mata to disengage. Mata then turned to the boy and said he was the boy's real father. The boy was shocked - all his life he had known Mata as his uncle.

On the stand, Mata claimed self-defense, testifying that the victim attacked him first due to jealousy and anger issues. Mata sustained scratches and a bloody wound on his chest, which he claimed the victim inflicted on him because of her emotional problems. Additionally, Mata's church pastor and another character witness testified to his character for peacefulness. During his testimony, Mata claimed he was unable to make a fist due to a prior injury. However, when pressed during cross-examination, Mata admitted that the injuries on the victim were caused by punches, which then led to his ultimate admission that he knows how to make a fist with his hand.

Mata's sentencing hearing is scheduled for February 28, 2019 before Judge Carrie M. Panetta. This case was thoroughly investigated by Officers Fernando Flores and Jose Contreras from Soledad Police Department, as well as District Attorney Investigator Jorge Gutierrez.