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PRESS RELEASE

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LOS BANOS MAN FOUND GUILTY BY JURY OF DISSUADING A VICTIM OF A CRIME WITH FORCE

People v. Demie Sample, Jr.; 18CR005788

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that on March 12, 2019, a jury found Demie Sample, Jr., a 36 year-old Los Banos resident, guilty of dissuading a victim of a crime with force. This conviction is a “strike” under California’s Three Strikes Law. The defendant faces up to seven years in prison.

On June 15, 2018, Sample assaulted his then-girlfriend in her Marina home. She tried to escape by running to her bedroom, locking the door, and calling her dad for help. Sample broke down her door and ripped the phone from her hands before she completed the call. He then began a brutal assault that left Jane Doe with visible injuries, including a laceration to her scalp and bruising on her face, arms, back, and legs. He strangled Jane Doe until she lost consciousness. When she testified before the jury, she disclosed for the first time details of long-term, horrific abuse the defendant had inflicted, which included punching out her teeth, multiple incidents of near-fatal strangulation, and other violence that had occurred in front of her children.

Judge Mark E. Hood will set Sample’s sentencing date on March 21, 2019.

Officer Shane Mercado with the Marina Police Department and Investigator Ben Draeger with the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office investigated this case. Jane Doe and her family were supported by victim advocate Sonia Buenrostro from the District Attorney’s Victim Assistance Unit throughout this case.

There is no excuse for domestic violence. If you or a loved one are experiencing domestic violence and need assistance, call the YWCA at 831-372-6300 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).