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PRESS RELEASE

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SALINAS MAN PLEADS NO CONTEST TO MULTIPLE COUNTS OF FORCIBLE CHILD MOLESTATION OF HIS DAUGHTER; WILL RECEIVE 30 YEAR PRISON SENTENCE

People v. Jeshuah ekolu Atuai-Levao
18CR010416

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that Jeshuah ekolu Atuai-Levao pled no contest on September 13, 2019, to three felony counts of Penal Code § 288(b)(1), forcible lewd and lascivious acts with a child under 14.

In August 2018, Jane Doe (age 15) disclosed to law enforcement that her father, Jeshuah Atuai-Levao, had been having sexual intercourse with her against her will. The defendant began molesting Jane Doe starting at the age of 7 while they lived in Oregon and continued until Jane Doe's disclosure to her family in July of 2018. The conduct ranged from inappropriate touching to oral copulation and eventually sexual intercourse. The molestation occurred on a weekly basis for years. Jane Doe succumbed to the defendant's advances out of duress. She reported that she was scared of the negative repercussions of saying no to him, given that he was a stay-at-home parent and the disciplinarian. The defendant isolated Jane Doe and her sister from other family members when their mother was at work. Jane Doe disclosed that the defendant was in fact physically violent towards her on one occasion when she incorrectly thought she was pregnant from him. Jane Doe was also scared that he would move on to molest her other sister if Jane Doe rejected his overtures. Because Jane Doe and the defendant did not move to California until she was 13, the Monterey County District Attorney's Office did not have jurisdiction to prosecute the defendant for most of the molestation that Jane Doe alleged.

Law enforcement was able to uncover multiple sources of corroboration for Jane Doe's allegations. Two family members reported that they had walked in on Jane Doe and defendant under circumstances indicative of sexual conduct on separate occasions. While the investigation was pending, the defendant emailed Jane Doe and admitted fault for what happened to her. Lastly, a

SART examination of Jane Doe uncovered evidence consistent with her allegations of long-term sexual abuse.

The sentencing hearing will be held on October 11, 2019, in Department 2. The defendant will receive a stipulated sentence of 30 years in prison. He will be required to register as a sex offender upon release.

The case was investigated by Detective Gabi Contreras of the Salinas Police Department and DA Investigator Terri Edwards.

