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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 9, 2021
Re: Jesus Antonio Monjardin Medina
Forcible Sexual Assault Jury Trial Convictions

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jesus Antonio Monjardin Medina, age 24, of Denair, was convicted by a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury on September 3, 2021 of forcible rape, attempted sodomy and dissuading a witness. Deputy District Attorney Monroe H. Tyler prosecuted the case for the People.

On August 19, 2020, Medina sexually assaulted his fiancée's best friend after she fell asleep during the fiancée's birthday party. The victim awoke as Medina forcibly raped and then attempted to sodomize her. After the assault, she was taken to a local hospital where a sexual assault exam showed bruising on different parts of her body and an abrasion on her buttocks. Sheriff's investigators identified Medina as the suspect and he was arrested on September 2, 2020. During an interview, he denied having sex with the victim the night of the party.

While in jail pending court hearings in the case, Medina called his fiancée from jail on September 6, 2020, and told her to convince the victim to testify falsely at trial.

On August 2, 2021, the case went to trial before Stanislaus County Superior Court Judge Thomas Zeff. After two weeks of testimony and a delay related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the jury convicted Medina of all charges. During a subsequent court trial Judge Zeff also found that Medina had been previously convicted of assault with a firearm, a "strike" under California's "Three Strikes" law which may be used to increase his sentence.

After the verdicts were reached, Medina was turned over to the custody of the sheriff to be held without bail. A sentencing hearing is set for October 20, 2021, at which time Judge Zeff will hear a victim impact statement before imposing sentence. Medina faces a potential total prison sentence of up to 46 years.

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