



COUNTY OF YOLO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 11, 2013 **Contact:** Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney
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West Sacramento Man Sentenced to 21 years for Attacking Girlfriend

(Woodland, CA) – March 11, 2013 – Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced today that on March 7, 2013, Superior Court Judge Paul Richardson sentenced Michael Robert Hernandez III, 33, of West Sacramento, to 21 years in state prison for attacking his girlfriend. Hernandez pled no contest on January 24, 2012 to two strike-felonies, and multiple enhancements, including assault by means of force likely to produce great bodily injury, infliction of great bodily injury during domestic violence, and dissuading a witness.

On October 11, 2012, West Sacramento Police Officers were dispatched to a residence on Circle Drive, for a report of a fight between Hernandez and the victim. Hernandez and the victim were in a verbal argument that became physical when Hernandez pushed the victim to the floor and strangled her, causing her to nearly lose consciousness before he released his grip. Hernandez then punched and kicked the victim multiple times. While the victim was lying on the floor Hernandez straddled the victim and strangled her again, this time to the point of unconsciousness.

When the victim regained consciousness, Hernandez was going through her cell phone and threatened to hit her with a black bicycle lock to prevent her from using her phone. The victim was ultimately able to use another phone to call a nearby family member for help. When West Sacramento Police Officers arrived, Hernandez had already left the home.

On October 12, 2012, Hernandez contacted the victim over the phone and asked if she was going to testify against him. When she answered she would, he said that he was driving around looking for her with a firearm in his lap, and threatened to shoot her in the head.

Prosecuting Deputy District Attorney Diane Ortiz praised the victim and her mother for demonstrating extreme courage and bravery during the criminal justice process. “Mr. Hernandez physically beat and strangled the victim with wanton disregard for her life. Just as offensive was his attempt to silence and dissuade the victim through threats of death if she were to testify in court,” said Ortiz.

District Attorney Jeff Reisig expressed his appreciation for the District Attorney’s Victim Services Division. “Our advocate worked very closely with the victim and her mother in this case,” said Reisig. The Victim Service’s team does a tremendous job of providing support to our victims to help them endure the horrible aftermath of being a victim to a violent crime.”

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