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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Approved by CJZ  
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**Inmates Eric Castilleja and Frankie Villareal Found Guilty of Assault on Prisoner**  
*People v. Eric Castilleja and Frankie Villareal: Kern County Superior Court Case DF017264AB*

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction. On December 6, 2024, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Babbanjit “Bobby” Singh, a Kern County Jury found Eric Castilleja and Frankie Villareal guilty of Assaulting a Prisoner with a force likely to produce great bodily injury.

On May 6, 2022, Castilleja and Villareal were prison inmates housed at the California Correctional Institution in Tehachapi, California. At approximately 10:01 a.m. that day, Castilleja and Villareal approached another inmate on the exercise yard and attacked him by striking him in the face and upper torso with their fists. The victim inmate immediately fell to the ground and covered his face with his arms as the beating continued.

Correctional Officers gave multiple verbal orders for Castilleja and Villareal to stop attacking the victim inmate and to get down, with negative results, requiring officers to use force to stop the attack.

Following the jury’s verdict, the Court found that Castilleja had prior convictions for attempted murder, participation in a gang, and multiple robberies. The Court also found that Villareal had a prior conviction for murder.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “When prison inmates demonstrate their dangerousness by committing violent offenses even while in custody, it is evident they pose a significant threat to public safety and must be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law.”

Sentencing is scheduled for January 30, 2025, before the honorable Judge Michael Bush in Department 1 of the Kern County Superior Court. Castilleja is facing an additional 25 years to life in prison, while Villareal faces an additional 12 years in prison.

Eric Castilleja:



Frankie Villareal:

