



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF KERN

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
Nishi Dayal
(661) 868-2745

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by CJZ
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Re: Trial Conviction in Domestic Violence Stalking Case: Richard Banos Morales: Kern County Superior Court BF186751A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a domestic violence conviction today. On April 12, 2022, in a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Nishi Dayal, a Kern County jury found defendant Richard Morales guilty of Stalking, seven counts of Violating a Protective Order, Vandalism, and Intimidating a Witness.

The victim and Morales had previously been in a relationship but had separated in early 2020. Between June 2020 and October 2020, three protective orders were issued by the Kern County Superior Court prohibiting the defendant from having any contact with the victim.

From March through June of 2021, Morales continuously harassed the victim at her house in Bakersfield at all hours of the night. He would arrive armed with weapons, screaming and accusing her of harassment and ruining his life. In one instance, Morales intentionally crashed his car into hers while it was parked in the driveway. Most of the threats, and the vandalism of the car, were captured on video surveillance that the victim had installed due to her fear of Morales. After his arrest, Morales called the victim numerous times from jail asking her to help him by dropping the charges.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer stated: “Stalkers who Intentionally and repeatedly ignore court orders to threaten and terrorize a victim in their own home is a serious crime that requires serious consequences. This conviction sends a message that this conduct is not acceptable and will be met with severe penalties. I am proud to work with law enforcement to put a stop to these crimes and continue to seek justice for these victims.”

Sentencing is scheduled before the Honorable Judge Elizabet Rodriguez on May 10, 2022, in Department 11 of the Kern County Superior Court and the defendant faces a maximum sentence of 7 years and 4 months in prison.