

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 09-377

RELEASE NUMBER

September 2, 2016

RELEASE DATE

Joyce E. Dudley

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Mary Barron, Senior Deputy District Attorney

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***** **PRESS RELEASE** *****

September 2, 2016

RE: *People v. Felipe Martinez-Gallegos*, Case Number 1472620

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that Felipe Martinez-Gallegos, age 33, was sentenced to life in prison for the sexual assault of a woman on January 3, 2015. Martinez-Gallegos plead no contest to one count of assault with intent to commit rape, oral copulation, or sexual penetration, during the commission of a residential burglary.

The survivor was a foreign tourist who was staying in a beach area motel in Santa Barbara. Martinez-Gallegos entered the motel room with a key which he had kept from a previous stay. The survivor, asleep in her motel room, was awakened by the sound of Martinez-Gallegos manipulating the lock on the motel room door. Martinez-Gallegos entered the room and began assaulting her. While fighting him off, she was able to press the emergency call button on her cell phone to summon the police. Martinez-Gallegos then ran out of the room. He was apprehended a short time later by the Santa Barbara Police Department.

In addressing the court at sentencing, the survivor noted that, "The pleasure of traveling on my own has been shattered, and is clouded by an ever-present fear of something bad happening out of the blue."

District Attorney Joyce Dudley commended the bravery of the survivor, as well as the investigation conducted by the Santa Barbara Police Department. District Attorney Dudley added, "This conviction will ensure that the defendant will no longer be able to violate the safety and security of this community – or any other."

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