

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

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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CONTACT: DDA Gina Nargie (661) 868-2340 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of Parole Hearings Reversed Their Decision to Grant Parole to Convicted Torturer and Domestic Violence Offender After District Attorney's Office Investigation

CDC #AN2949; Court Case number BF142939A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) reversed their previous decision in March of 2023 to grant release to convicted torturer and domestic violence abuser Guillermo Alvarez. On October 6, 2023, BPH found that Alvarez continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety and denied parole. Representing the District Attorney's Office in all 2023 proceedings involving Alvarez was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

Crimes

During 2011 and 2012, Alvarez was living with his wife and his girlfriend. While married to his wife, Alvarez began a romantic and sexual relationship with another female. That girl was 17 years old. Alvarez was 21 years old. Alvarez's two children, his wife, and girlfriend were all living in the same home.

In the months leading up to July 7, 2012, Alvarez had physically abused his girlfriend at least 10 times, striking her in the stomach, ribs, legs, back, shoulder and face with an aluminum bat, metal rod, and shoe. On another occasion, Alvarez slapped and hit his wife several times. After he assaulted his wife, he punched his girlfriend in the jaw and stomped her midsection. He then picked up a baby walker and threw it down on her head while she was on the ground.

At trial, another one of Alvarez's previous victims testified and recounted a time where she was nursing their child when Alvarez threw a picture frame at her and then held a piece of glass against her throat while threatening to kill her.

Charges and Sentencing

On January 10, 2013, a Kern County Jury convicted Alvarez of one count of Torture, one count of Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Personal Infliction of Great Bodily Injury under circumstances involving Domestic Violence, one count of Assault and one count of Corporal Injury upon a Spouse or Cohabitant with Personal Infliction of Great Bodily Injury under circumstances involving Domestic Violence. A Kern County Judge sentenced Alvarez to 7 years-to-life in state prison.

First and Second Parole Hearings

Starting in 2018, only 5 years after he was convicted, Alvarez attended his first hearing with the Board of Parole. The first panel denied his release. In 2021, Alvarez appeared again before the Board of Parole. The second panel denied his release. Alvarez's third parole hearing was set for March 9, 2023.

DA Investigation

Shortly before his March 2023 hearing, the Kern County District Attorney's Office investigated Alvarez's on-line activity while incarcerated in prison. That investigation revealed not only that Alvarez violated the rules of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) but engaged in posting videos and messages that reflected his issues with criminal thinking and impulsivity. One example was a video he created and posted of himself in which he, sang, and put on-line, a song where he essentially compares himself to Satan. In his song, he bragged about running pruno (inmate made alcohol), killing people, dumping bodies in the Kern River, pimping, and other criminal gang activity. The District Attorney's Office provided the results of our investigation to an investigation unit within the CDCR.

Third Parole Hearing

On March 9, 2023, Alvarez had his third hearing with the Board of Parole. The presiding commissioner would not permit the district attorney's office to present or elicit evidence related to these activities at the hearing. Alvarez was granted parole.

BPH En Banc Session

After the hearing, the deputy district attorney assembled a second packet which contained audio and video recordings, photographs, and transcripts. Along with that packet of evidence, the deputy district attorney submitted a letter to BPH requesting the Board of Parole conduct a formal investigation. That request was granted.

At the conclusion of their investigation, Alvarez's case was sent to the BPH En Banc Board for reconsideration. The En Banc Board consists of all or most of the commissioners in the state. Before the May 2023 En Banc session, the deputy district attorney prepared a four-page written argument supporting why the board should rescind parole.

At the conclusion of the May 2023 En Banc session the Board of Parole rescinded Alvarez's parole. After recission of parole an inmate is entitled to a new parole hearing approximately 120 days after parole is revoked.

Fourth Parole Hearing

On October 6, 2023, Alvarez had his fourth hearing in front of the Board of Parole. The Board of Parole found that Alvarez was not suitable for parole and posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society. Parole was denied for five years, his next projected date for a parole hearing is October 2028.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the release saying, "I'm grateful for the fine work of our office and CDCR for exposing the truth. We are stranding with the victims and will continue to fight to keep violent criminals behind bars."

Guillermo Alvarez:

