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## WOULD - BE COP KILLER CONVICTED

32 year old Elisondro Chiprez of Merced who shot at a CHP officer following a traffic stop, led police on a chase involving speeds of over 100 miles per hour and then fired several shots at Merced County Sheriff's Department SWAT members while barricaded in a house during a seven hour standoff last year, was convicted late Tuesday of all the counts filed against him, according to Deputy District Attorney Robert Carroll, who prosecuted the case. The jury handed down convictions for 3 counts of attempted murder, 4 counts of assault with a firearm, felony evading arrest and being a felon in possession of a firearm. In addition, the jury found numerous enhancements to be true, including allegations that Chiprez used a firearm in the commission of the attempted murders.

The charges stem from a July 8, 2006 incident during which Chiprez, shot at CHP Officer Jerry Elrod following a routine traffic stop. According to Carroll, Chiprez then fled, leading Officer Elrod on a high speed chase at speeds over 100 miles per hour. Chiprez then abandoned the vehicle, and fired three rounds at Elrod when Elrod approached it. A witness at the scene testified that Chiprez appeared to be lying in wait for Elrod, said Carroll.

Following the attempted murder of Elrod, Chiprez fled to a residence in a rural Merced County area. The Merced County Sheriff's Office SWAT team, after receiving a tip as to Chiprez's location, surrounded the home. After a 7 hour standoff, Chiprez began firing at deputies, nearly striking Sergeant Scott Dover. SWAT team members then fired tear gas into the residence, while continuing attempts to negotiate a peaceful surrender. When negotiations broke down, deputies entered the residence as Chiprez fired at them.

"The jury did a fine job of sifting through a large amount of testimony and evidence," said Carroll. "The people of Merced County are fortunate to have such professional law enforcement officers. Both the CHP and the Sheriff's Department displayed incredible skill and patience during this ordeal, minimizing the risk of harm to the community. Their commitment to protecting and serving all of us is inspiring", added Carroll.

Chiprez will next appear in court on October 30, before Superior Court Judge John D. Kirihara, who presided over the 5 day trial. Because of his convictions, Chiprez faces multiple life terms in prison.