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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MERCED MAN CONVICTED OF ATTEMPTED MURDER

A Merced County jury convicted Merced resident Arturo Alvarez of multiple violent felonies, following a seven day trial presided over by Superior Court Judge Ronald Hansen. After deliberating for approximately two hours, the jury found Alvarez guilty of attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, criminal threats, felony domestic violence and assault by means of force likely to produce great bodily injury.

The charges stemmed from two separate incidents of domestic violence, both occurring in the city of Merced. In the first incident, occurring on April 25, the 24 year old Alvarez savagely beat and strangled the victim. The victim, who has a child in common with the defendant, was nearly rendered unconscious during the attack.

On May 11, following a verbal argument, Alvarez kicked and beat the victim while threatening to kill her. Following the initial beating, Alvarez threw the victim on a sofa, and stabbed her in the head with a pair of scissors while restraining her with a choke hold. The victim's injuries required numerous sutures.

Deputy District Attorney Christa Gonzalez, who prosecuted the case, praised the jury for its attention and hard work on this case. "The jurors were presented with a large amount of evidence during the course of the trial. They maintained their focus and impartiality and came to a fair and just verdict. I am pleased that a violent and sadistic attacker has been brought to justice," said Gonzalez.

The case was investigated by the Merced Police Department. Gonzalez noted that the reporting and investigation done by Detectives Jeffrey Eastman and Hector Ortiz, as well as by Officer Miguel Gallegos made a successful prosecution possible. "Domestic violence cases can be difficult to prosecute due to the unique dynamics of family violence. Without the hard work of committed law enforcement officers, tragic and brutal crimes such as these might go unpunished," noted Gonzalez.

Alvarez remains in custody pending sentencing on October 19, 2006. He faces up to 13 years, 8 months in prison as a result of his convictions.