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9th Judicial District
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PRESS RELEASE: 3/21/2024

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Habitual Felon Sentenced to 50 Years For Strangulation

Name: Lauro Eliud Salinas
Age: 50
Court: 435th District Court, Judge John C. Hafley presiding
Charge(s): Assault Family Violence Impeding Breath/Circulation
Plea: Not Guilty
Verdict: Guilty, by jury on 03/19/24
Sentence: 50 years TDCJ, by judge on 03/19/24

ADA Jamie Sulla:

"Lauro Salinas is a dangerous man who can no longer victimize women. Thanks to the strength and courage of the survivor, the dedicated work of law enforcement, and the care provided by EMS and medical personnel, our county is safer today than it was yesterday."

District Attorney Brett Ligon:

"Lauro Salinas is a violent man committed to violent acts, particularly against women. Such men have no place among us, and we are grateful to the jury and the judge that Salinas will now serve a lengthy prison sentence."

On Monday, March 18, 2024, Montgomery County District Attorney's Office prosecutors Jamie Sulla and Taylor Vanegas selected a jury in the case of State v. Lauro Eliud Salinas. The jury trial was assigned to the 435th District Court, heard by Judge John C. Hafley for Judge Patty Maginnis. The prosecutors then began testimony for the charge of Assault Family Violence Impeding Breath/Circulation.

Prosecutors presented evidence that in June of 2022, Salinas became jealous when his girlfriend of two years spoke to an Uber driver. Once they arrived home, Salinas began hitting her in the face, knocking her to the ground, where he then wrapped his hands around her neck and strangled her until she was unconscious. Salinas then dragged her across the concrete into the yard, causing additional injuries on her arm and to her shoulder. Salinas stopped the assault when the victim's 8-year-old son began yelling for Salinas to stop hurting his mom. Salinas retrieved a firearm and fled the scene before police arrived. EMS transported the victim to HCA Houston Healthcare Cleveland for treatment of her injuries.

The jury quickly found Salinas guilty. During punishment proceedings to the judge, prosecutors presented evidence that Salinas had twice been to prison for Assault Family Member 2 or More Times Within 12 Months and Possession of Marijuana In the Amount of Five Pounds or More But Less Than 50 Pounds, increasing his punishment range to 25 years to life in prison. Judge Hafley then assessed a 50-year sentence.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, HCA Houston Healthcare Kingwood/Cleveland, Montgomery County Hospital District, and Texas Prison Office of Inspector General provided evidence and support necessary to bring justice to the victim and safety to the people of Montgomery County.