



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HUGO LOPEZ-VENEGAS CONVICTED OF CRIMINAL THREATS, BATTERY CAUSING GREAT BODILY INJURY AND ASSAULT WEAPON POSSESSION

Hugo Antonio Lopez-Venegas (28, of Fresno) was convicted yesterday afternoon of battery causing great bodily injury, criminal threats and multiple gun possession charges resulting from his crime spree in the fall of 2018, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office has announced.

In September of 2018, one of his victims was driving slowly out of an apartment complex parking lot when Lopez-Venegas approached and accused him of gossiping about his wife. The victim did not know what Lopez-Venegas was talking about. Lopez-Venegas then pulled out a handgun, racked the slide back, pointed it at victim, and said, "You better watch your back; your wife too!" Lopez-Venegas then threatened to shoot the victim.

Five days later, Lopez-Venegas punched his co-worker several times in the face, fracturing his eye socket and nose. These injuries sent this victim to the hospital for treatment.

After the criminal threats and assault charges were filed, Lopez-Venegas failed to appear in court while out on bail. He was later arrested by MAGEC officers and found to be in possession of 3 firearms, including an AR-15 assault rifle.

A Fresno County Superior Court jury found Lopez-Venegas guilty of Criminal Threats [PC 422]; Battery Causing Serious Bodily Injury [243(d)], with personal infliction of great bodily injury [PC 969f]; Possession of Firearms by a Prohibited Person [PC 29820(b); plus 3 counts of PC 29800(a)(1)]; Possession of an Assault Weapon [PC 30605]; Possession of Ammunition by a Prohibited Person [PC 30305]; and a special allegation of committing crimes while out on bail [PC 12022.1]

Lopez-Venegas is scheduled to be sentenced on December 19, 2019 in Department 72 of the Fresno County Superior Court. He faces a potential sentence of up to 10 years 8 months in state prison.

This case is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Adam Christopherson.

The Media may email FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov or contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4441 with questions.

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