



HUMBOLDT COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
PAUL V. GALLEGOS • DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Criminal Division • tel (707) 445-7411 • fax (707) 445-7416 • 825 5th Street, Eureka, CA 95501
Victim Witness Assistance • tel (707) 445-7417 • fax (707) 445-7490 • 712 4th Street, Eureka, CA 95501

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Re: Domestic Violence Conviction Equals “Strike” Offenses

Date: October 5, 2011

Contact: District Attorney Paul Gallegos

Phone: (707) 268-2571, (707) 267-4400

On Monday, October 3, a Humboldt County jury found Jamil Najm Muhammad, 58, of Eureka, guilty of 2 counts of Criminal Threats, 1 count of False Imprisonment, and 1 count of Corporal Injury to a Spouse or Cohabitant. All felonies.

The jury found that on February 23, 2011, Muhammad held a woman captive in his motor home and threatened to “hurt her real bad” if she attempted to leave. The victim was able to place a call to 911, but was unable to speak because Muhammad was only a few feet away. The 911 dispatcher called the number back to see if the caller needed assistance. Although the victim couldn’t clearly communicate her location or the nature of the threat, she pretended to discuss a car sale while carefully answering “yes” or “no” questions for the 911 dispatcher. Officers responded and were able to locate her using the signal from her cell phone and officers on the ground. As a result of this action, Muhammad was found guilty of False Imprisonment and Criminal Threats.

On March 14, 2011, the same victim was brought to St. Joseph’s Hospital with over 20 bruises on her body. She stated that Muhammad had again held her captive, this time causing her physical injury while brandishing a large wrench and threatening to “bash her head in, throw her head out the window and leave it for the cops to clean up”. In this incident the victim suffered a head injury in addition to the bruises. As a result of his actions in this incident, Muhammad was found guilty of Criminal Threats and Corporal Injury to a Spouse or Cohabitant.

Muhammad has three prior “strike” offenses and five prior prison terms and has not remained out of prison for more than 4 years in a row since 1979. The new felony convictions will be his fourth and fifth serious “strike” offenses, and therefore Muhammad faces as much as thirty years to life in prison.

Muhammad is scheduled for sentencing November 8, 2011.