



## COUNTY OF FRESNO

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District Attorney

### NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 28, 2017

## **ALFREDO “BLESSEM” VERDE CONVICTED OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING CHARGES FOR CRIMES AGAINST A 17-YEAR-OLD GIRL**

Deputy District Attorney Miiko Anderson, Senior D.A. Investigator Doug Bolton, and Detective David Fries of the Fresno Police Department are pleased to announce that yesterday, June 27, 2017, Alfredo “Blessem” Verde was found guilty of six felony counts related to the human trafficking of a 17-year-old female high school student.

In February of 2016, the defendant provided a place for the runaway teenage victim to stay before demanding that she work as his prostitute to repay him. After the victim returned home briefly, the defendant threatened to harm the victim and her family. The victim returned to the defendant and he immediately resumed trafficking her. On June 22, 2016, the victim was recovered during a traffic stop of a car being driven by the defendant. A firearm was also recovered in the vehicle. During the trial, the jury heard several recorded calls made by the defendant while he was in custody, directing other females to contact the victim and “get his money.” The jury also viewed a music video featuring the defendant armed with a gun and rapping about pimping and gang life.

Yesterday, a Fresno County jury convicted the defendant of:

- 1.) Two (2) counts of Human Trafficking of a Minor for a Sex Act Involving Force [Penal Code § 236.1];
- 2.) Abduction of a Minor for the Purposes of Prostitution [Penal Code § 267];
- 3.) Pandering [Penal Code § 266i];
- 4.) Dissuading a Witness by Force or Threat [Penal Code § 136.1]; and
- 5.) Receiving a Large Capacity Magazine [Penal Code § 32310(a)].

The defendant is currently in custody at the Fresno County Jail. He faces a sentence of up to 25 years to life, and will also be required to register as a Sex Offender when he is sentenced on July 27, 2017 at 8:30 a.m., in Department 60 of the Fresno County Superior Court. However, upon reaching age 60 and after serving 25 years, Mr. Verde will be eligible for release under the Elderly Parole program.

The Media may email [FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us](mailto:FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us) or contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions.

[2016S18142]

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