



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2017

ALFREDO “BLESSEM” VERDE SENTENCED TO 23 YEARS-TO-LIFE IN PRISON FOR THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF A 17-YEAR-OLD GIRL

Today, Alfredo “Blessem” Verde was sentenced to twenty three (23) years and seven (7) months-to-life in prison after being convicted of multiple 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.

On June 27th, 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)].

Today the Honorable Judge John Vogt sentenced the defendant to 23 years and 7 months-to-life in custody at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. 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 or contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions.

[2016S18142]
