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Press Release

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Man Sentenced to 40 Years for Aggravated Robbery

GALVESTON – On Wednesday, Miguel Angel Saenz, 33, was sentenced to 40 and 30 year prison sentences for two charges of aggravated robbery. On Tuesday, June 7, 2016, Saenz pled guilty to the charges and had his punishment decided by Judge Michelle Slaughter in the 405th District Court.

On September 29, 2014, Saenz, over the course of about two and a half hours held Joe Jenkins and Sebastian Lee hostage at Jenkins' residence in Dickinson, Texas. Saenz was assisted by an unidentified male. Saenz was a previous employee of Jenkins and planned the robbery in retaliation for being fired.

On the day of the robberies, Saenz convinced Jenkins to invite him over to hang out. When Saenz arrived he discovered that Jenkins had also invited another friend, Lee. The three men visited outside for a while and then Jenkins and Lee went inside. Saenz remained outside, called his accomplice and waited for him to arrive. Once the accomplice arrived, the accomplice and Saenz rushed into Jenkins' home with guns. Saenz told Jenkins that what was happening "had been a long time coming." He also told Lee that Lee was just "in the wrong place at the wrong time." Saenz and his accomplice bound Jenkins and Lee with duct-tape around their hands and feet, physically assaulting both men with guns in the process.

Jenkins was brutally beaten over the course of the next few hours. Saenz demanded the combination to Jenkins' home safe and became increasingly agitated when he had difficulty getting the safe open. During the course of the robbery, Saenz threatened to kill both victims, often pointing a gun at Jenkins' head, and increasing the brutality of the beatings Jenkins suffered. At one point, a bag was used in an attempt to smother Lee. Jenkins also broke free of his bindings, but Saenz and his accomplice were able to subdue Jenkins and then not only bound Jenkins' hands and feet with duct-tape but also hog-tied him with the cord from a vacuum cleaner.

Once the safe was opened, Saenz took the money from the safe as well as money and jewelry from both victims before leaving in Jenkins' vehicle. Jenkins and Lee then freed themselves from their bindings and went to a neighbor's house for help. Jenkins suffered multiple injuries, including cheekbone fractures, a broken nose, a laceration to his skull, ruptured kidneys, and blunt force trauma injuries to multiple areas of the body. Saenz was finally apprehended in Walker County on a traffic stop and was found to have been living under another name.

During the punishment hearing, the court also heard testimony that Saenz had two prior felony convictions in Idaho for aggravated battery and trafficking methamphetamine and had previously been deported. Assistant District Attorney Kacey Launius argued to the court that when deciding punishment the focus should be on the brutality of the crime and that there was no evidence presented that would justify a lenient sentence.

Saenz faced a punishment range of five to 99 years or life. The court sentenced Saenz to 40 years for the charge involving Jenkins and to 30 years for the charge involving Lee. Saenz will not be eligible for parole until at least half (or 20 years) of his sentence is served. Upon his release, Saenz may again be subject to deportation.

Saenz was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Kacey Launius and Matthew Shawhan in the 405th District Court, with Judge Michelle Slaughter presiding. The investigation was conducted by the Dickinson Police Department.