



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: January 27, 2021  
Re: Christian Molina-Alvarez  
Jury Trial Conviction

### **For More Information Contact:**

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Christian Molina-Alvarez, age 26, of Modesto, was convicted on November 18, 2020 of residential burglary, corporal injury to a former spouse/cohabitant, criminal threats, three counts of assault with a deadly weapon, as well as three enhancements for personally inflicting great bodily injury. Deputy District Attorney Donya Nunes prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On September 7, 2018, Maria Hernandez and Molina-Alvarez had been in a dating relationship for two years and had been cohabitants until Molina-Alvarez moved out four days prior. At approximately 11 p.m., Molina called Hernandez three times, but she did not respond. Hernandez then heard her back window shatter. When she went into the kitchen to see what happened she saw Molina breaking through her window and coming into her home. Ms. Hernandez grabbed her keys and ran towards the front door before being stopped by Molina who grabbed her by the back of the neck and hair. After Molina strangled her for approximately two minutes, she was able to free herself and run away. Molina chased her down and stopped her saying, "I will kill you" multiple times. Molina again forcibly pulled her down to the ground, struck her multiple times in the face before strangling her into unconsciousness.

Two neighbors heard glass breaking and went outside where they could see Molina on top of the victim striking her in the face several times with a closed fist while holding her down by the throat with the other hand. Hernandez cried out to them "help me, he is trying to kill me!" When the neighbors told Molina to let the victim go, he refused, telling them to "mind their own business."

Other neighbors arrived and Molina then got into his pickup truck and drove directly at those who were trying to help the victim. Alondra Pena was hit by the truck; it sent her flying into the air and she landed on her wrist, fracturing it. Margarito Pena was also hit and he suffered a fractured kneecap and fractures to two spinal discs.

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After a 7-day trial, the jury convicted Molina on November 18, 2020 with verdicts of guilty on all charges as well as three enhancements for personally inflicting great bodily injury on each of the three victims. All six charges are considered “strikes” under the California Three Strikes law and could be used to increase a sentence if Molina is convicted of another felony in the future.

A sentencing hearing is scheduled for February 11, 2021 in front of Judge Shawn Bessey. The defendant is facing a maximum of 16 years and eight months in state prison.

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