



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

Jeff Laugero
District Attorney

Assistant District Attorney
Mark Zahner

Chief Deputies
Marlisa Ferreira
Wendell Emerson
Michael D. Houston

Bureau of Investigation
Chief Terry L. Seese

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 11, 2023
Re: Ruben Medina Solorio
Attempted Murderer Denied Parole

For More Information Contact:

John Goold, Public Information Liaison
Phone: (209) 525-6909

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Ruben Medina Solorio, age 56, formerly of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole during a June 16, 2023, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad. Deputy District Attorney Holly MacKinnon appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

In the summer of 1995, Solorio became romantically involved with the 21-year old female victim. Solorio turned out to be a possessive and jealous boyfriend who would beat her, causing her to attempt to break off the relationship. On September 16, 1995, the victim went to a bar with a female friend where they saw Solorio. Solorio got angry, grabbed and ripped the victim's blouse and tried to hit her but he was blocked by the victim's female friend.

The next day the victim, fearing retaliation from Solorio, asked the same female friend and another male friend to stay the night with her in her trailer. In the middle of that night, her female friend woke up to Solorio jumping into the trailer through one of the windows carrying a baseball bat. Solorio went to the victim's bedroom but was initially blocked by the female friend from going inside. He eventually forced open the door and tried to hit the victim with the bat. When the female friend struggled with him over the bat, Solorio pulled a knife out of his back pocket and stabbed the victim more than five times as she was lying in her bed screaming and trying to block the knife attack with her hands. Solorio also stabbed the male friend in the left side before running from the trailer.

The victim suffered stab wounds to her finger, left arm, stomach and left thigh. She underwent surgery for her injuries, almost lost her left arm, and was hospitalized for 10 days. The male friend suffered a puncture wound to his left upper torso and was hospitalized for two days. When Solorio was apprehended by Stanislaus Sheriff's Deputies later that morning, he was still wearing the same bloody clothing from the attack.

A jury trial was held in April of 1996 before now retired Judge Hugh Rose, III. Jurors heard witness testimony that Solorio had unsuccessfully tried to obtain a firearm that day so he could use it to kill the victim. The jury convicted Solorio of premeditated attempted murder, attempted voluntary

Office: 832 12th Street, Suite 300 Modesto, CA 95354 Mailing: PO BOX 442 Modesto, CA 95353
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 558-4027 www.stanislaus-da.org



<https://www.facebook.com/StanislausDistrictAttorney/>

manslaughter and first-degree residential burglary. The jury also found true allegations that Solorio inflicted great bodily injury on the victims and had personally used a deadly and dangerous weapon. Judge Rose later sentenced Solorio to serve 12 ½ years-to-life in state prison.

A prison psychologist who examined Solorio prior to the parole hearing gave the opinion that he still posed a moderate risk for future violence if he were to be released into the community. The psychologist expressed concern whether Solorio had the ability to manage stress and cope with the rigors of being released into the free community as well as his capacity, or lack thereof, to recognize warning signs of unstable relationships. The doctor stated that all these characteristics needed further development before Solorio was suitable for parole.

Prosecutor MacKinnon asked the Board to deny parole, arguing that the brutality and callousness of his crimes combined with a lack of sufficient insight into why he suddenly and viciously attempted to kill a woman he had only known for three months, made him a current unreasonable risk of danger to the community if he were to be released from prison.

The victim, now age 49, also appeared before the Board and expressed how she was adamantly against Solorio's release on parole. She told the Board how, some 27 years later, she still does not have the use of her left arm. She told them how she was left-handed at the time, but since then has been forced to learn how to do daily tasks with her right arm. She also shared how the crime traumatically affected her and her family.

After deliberations, the Board denied parole for three years stating that although Solorio had shown progress in some areas, he failed to even mention the female friend and male friend victims or express any remorse towards them during his testimony. The Board felt that Solorio's lack of domestic violence programming and lack of insight into why he committed the crimes caused him to remain a current danger to the community for future violence if he were to be released. The Board encouraged Solorio to develop more stress coping tools to deal with his risk factors and to participate in domestic violence, victim awareness and educational programming.

This was Solorio's fourth parole hearing. He will be eligible for another hearing in 2026, however due to his age, he is eligible for elder parole consideration and may petition the Board for another hearing earlier than three years should his circumstances support it.

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