



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit, Cherokee County
90 North Street, Canton GA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice of Conviction
Cherokee County Jury Convicts Man of Rape and Child Sex Crimes Involving Two Young Victims
State vs. Reyes Hernandez-Macario

March 13, 2026 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on March 12 a Cherokee County jury convicted Reyes Hernandez-Macario, 26, of raping two pre-teen girls in separate forcible incidents in Canton and Woodstock. The jury found him guilty of all eight charges: two counts of rape, two counts of child molestation, two counts of false imprisonment, and two counts of cruelty to children in the first degree. Sentencing will be set at a later date.

The defendant was known to both children and served as a youth pastor responsible for transporting children to youth services.

In August 2023, the Canton Police Department responded to a 911 call reporting that Hernandez-Macario had sexually abused a child under the age of 13. During the investigation, the child participated in a forensic interview and disclosed details of the incident, which occurred about six months before the abuse was reported. The child said that Hernandez-Macario dropped off the other children after youth service, leaving her alone with him in the van. When she tried to leave, he locked the doors and forcibly assaulted her. Afterwards, he told her not to tell anyone about what had happened.

The following month, in September 2023, the Woodstock Police Department responded to a report of sexual abuse involving another child under the age of 13. During a forensic interview, this child described similar circumstances involving force by the defendant. She said the defendant was alone with her in her family's home when he grabbed her and covered her mouth to prevent her from calling for help. He told her that if she told anyone, harm would come to her family. The incident occurred in September 2022.

On October 20, 2023, law enforcement obtained an arrest warrant for Hernandez-Macario. Two days later, the defendant was apprehended at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport, attempting to fly to Guatemala. He was taken into custody and transported to the Cherokee County Adult Detention Center.

During the four-day trial, jurors heard testimony from 18 witnesses, including law enforcement officers, medical professionals, child abuse experts, the victims, and family members. The State also introduced 37 exhibits into evidence, including the recorded forensic interviews of both children. The jury deliberated for about two hours before reaching its verdict.

The cases were investigated by the Canton Police Department and the Woodstock Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Hines of the Special Victims Unit, assisted by Assistant District Attorney Pete Lamb.

###

The Office of the District Attorney for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit is committed to seeking justice, acting with integrity, and collaborating with partner agencies in the criminal justice system in order to protect the citizens of Cherokee County and the State of Georgia.

CONTACT:

Cyndi Crossland

Public Information Officer

cbcrossland@cherokeega.com