

## **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** September 15, 2023

Contact: Douglas County District Attorney's Office (770) 920-7292

## Man Convicted of Rape

On August 31, 2023, a Douglas County jury returned a verdict convicting forty-four-year-old Alberto Vazquez of rape, aggravated sodomy, and false imprisonment. The prosecution team was led by Assistant District Attorney Laura Lukert with the assistance of Assistant District Attorney Amber Qualls. Investigator Myrlene Jean, with the Douglas County Sheriff's Department, was the lead law enforcement officer on the case. Superior Court Judge Cynthia Adams presided over the matter.

On Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the victim fled to the Douglasville Police Department following being attacked by the defendant. It was determined that the incident took place in the Sheriff's Department jurisdiction and they were called to the Police Department to investigate the incident. When law enforcement arrived, they met with the female victim, who stated she had an altercation with her husband, who was identified as Alberto Vazquez. They had been separated for a year, when Vazquez came to the house despite the victim asking him not to come to the home. While standing outside the residence, they began to argue. The defendant then grabbed the victim by her hair, punched her several times and forced her to go inside the residence. The defendant forced his wife to go into the bathroom and sexually assaulted her repeatedly. The victim told the defendant "no" multiple times, but he ignored her and continued to assault her. The victim's child was home during the attack.

The defendant threatened the victim with bodily harm and demanded that she get her cell phone. The victim, in fear for her life, ran from the house when the defendant was distracted and went to the Douglasville Police Department where she was then assisted by law enforcement.

District Attorney Dalia Racine stated "While the victim in this case could not control the defendant's assault, she made the courageous decision to testify about his horrible abuse to protect herself and her family and put an end to his on-going abuse. We encourage domestic and sexual assault survivors to reach out to resources to get help for them and their loved ones."

After hearing all the evidence and testimony, the jury returned a verdict convicting Alberto Vazquez of rape, aggravated sodomy, and false imprisonment. Sentencing will be at a later date. Vazquez is facing a maximum time of life without the possibility of parole.