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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced to Prison for Assaulting and Threatening to Kill Ex-Girlfriend

A 30-year-old man convicted of attacking his ex-girlfriend and threatening to kill her on several occasions was sentenced yesterday to eight years and four months in state prison, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

At Tuesday's court appearance, defendant Benny Torres pleaded no contest to six counts in case GA095115: two counts of making criminal threats, two counts of cruelty to child by inflicting injury and one count each of assault with a deadly weapon and injuring a girlfriend.

In addition to the prison sentence, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Darrel Mavis also ordered Torres to stay away from the victim for 10 years.

Deputy District Attorney Presciliano Duran, who prosecuted the case, said Torres and his ex-girlfriend had dated for several months.

During a domestic violence incident on Oct. 3, the defendant strangled his ex-girlfriend and warned her that he would kill her in front of her two children, the prosecutor said.

More than three weeks later, Torres threatened to kill the victim again if she did not pick him up from a location and take him to a hotel. In fear for her life, the victim did what Torres asked, the prosecutor said.

The next day, while still at the hotel, the victim told Torres she wanted to leave. Torres threatened to kill her again before hitting her over the head with a gun, the prosecutor added.

The defendant then took the victim's car keys and made her get in the passenger seat of her vehicle while Torres drove. During the car ride, the victim believed Torres would ultimately kill her. As a result, she jumped out of the vehicle while the two were on the freeway and flagged down a passerby for help, according to the prosecutor.

The case was investigated by the Monterey Park Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.