

# State of South Carolina



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**SCARLETT A. WILSON**

*Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit*

## **JUDGE SENTENCES ILLEGAL ALIEN TO MAXIMUM SENTENCE AFTER SEXUAL ASSAULT CONVICTION**

For Immediate Release  
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*Charleston, S.C.*— Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that the Honorable Roger M. Young, Sr. sentenced Delmar Maximiliano Perez-Ramirez to twenty years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections following his guilty plea to Criminal Sexual Conduct in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree.

The victim and the Defendant both rented separate rooms in the same apartment in North Charleston. The Defendant had previously expressed interest in having a romantic relationship with the victim, but she refused. On a previous occasion, the victim had filed a police report complaining that the Defendant was had previously come into her room while she was sleeping, rubbed her legs and went through her underwear drawer. The assault took place on April 18, 2022 in the victim's bedroom. She described that during the assault, which began while she was asleep, the Defendant got on top of her, raped her, punched her in the face, strangled her and rendered her unconscious for part of the assault. She recalled that during the assault the Defendant told her in Spanish to "just stay still and let it happen". Instead, she fought for her life. Though the defendant overpowered her during the struggle, she ultimately was able to get away and run to a neighbor's residence to seek help. When police and EMS arrived, the injuries inflicted by the Defendant were already becoming visible. During the plea, prosecutors provided the judge with photographs taken immediately after the assault that showed the victim's left eye was purple and swollen shut. The victim still suffers from issues with her eye today, almost three years later. The victim underwent a Sexual Assault Exam at the hospital. The eye that was not swollen shut, revealed hemorrhaging is consistent with strangulation. The DNA analysis performed by SLED strongly supported the presence of the Defendant's DNA throughout the specimens from the victim's rape kit. Despite the physical and emotional trauma that the victim suffered at the hands of the Defendant, she had the courage to coordinate with the State in this prosecution. While the victim was fearful of testifying at trial, neither the devastating trauma nor the significant language barrier nor threats of retribution were not enough to silence her.

Both the specific facts and the charge that the Defendant pleaded to made him automatically deportable by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, due to his lack of legal immigration status at the time the crime was committed. The defense asked the judge to consider that fact and the time that the Defendant had spent in jail prior to pleading guilty and asked the judge to give a sentence of time served or probation. The State argued that once a Defendant is deported, there are no guarantees that they will not re-enter the country. The Honorable Judge Roger M. Young Sr. sentenced the defendant to the maximum sentence under the statute, twenty years.

Assistant Solicitor Kelsey Davis prosecuted the case, assisted by Investigator Kristine Rivera. Assistant Solicitor Davis stated, "The injuries that the victim suffered as a result of this attack have and will continue to stay with her. Poignantly, the injuries the Defendant inflicted upon her also sealed his own fate, as they made his guilt and malice evident to all involved in his case."

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