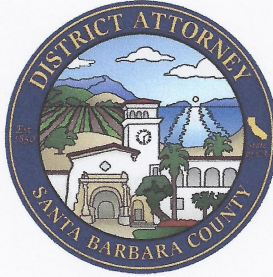


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 04-159

RELEASE NUMBER

April 30, 2013

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley* JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Anthony Davis Anthony Davis, Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT PERSON (805) 568-2300

* * * * * PRESS RELEASE * * * * *

April 30, 2013

Re: People v. Michael Sastre

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced that yesterday, April 29, 2013, 33-year-old Michael Sastre was sentenced to 30 years to life in state prison after pleading guilty to Second-Degree Robbery and Arson of Personal Property. This life sentence was the result of having two prior strike convictions in Los Angeles County in 2000, one for Assault with a Deadly Weapon and the other for Attempted Murder with the use of a knife.

On January 24, 2013, Michael Sastre was released from state prison after serving 12 years for attempting to murder his ex-girlfriend, in addition to other charges and enhancements. Within hours of his release in Los Angeles, Sastre found his way to Santa Barbara and, just before midnight, entered the Arco AM/PM Market at the corner of State Street and Ontare Road. Sastre told the clerk to give him the money in the register or he would shoot him. When that was not successful, Sastre threatened to burn the building down if the clerk did not comply. Sastre then began walking around the store lighting merchandise and fixtures on fire. When the clerk called 911, Sastre grabbed the keys to the store off of the counter and left on foot. The clerk successfully extinguished the burning displays prior to emergency personnel arriving. Sastre was detained by Santa Barbara Police Department officers less than a block away.

Prosecuting Deputy District Attorney Anthony Davis commended the store clerk for his courage in the face of such threats, for taking quick action to avoid significant damage to the store, and for his assistance in prosecuting Michael Sastre. DDA Davis also commended the officers of the Santa Barbara Police Department for their swift response in the apprehension of Michael Sastre, and their detailed crime scene investigation.

In commenting on this three-strike sentence, District Attorney Dudley stated, "This is precisely why the Three Strike Law was created; its core purpose is to keep our communities safe from violent criminal offenses."

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