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Certeza Convicted after Forcibly Raping Victim

Tamuning, Guam- Julio Quenga Certeza was convicted late yesterday afternoon after a Guam Superior Court Jury found him guilty of all charges after he forcibly raped a young woman with a gun and knife about a year ago. He was convicted of two counts of first degree criminal sexual conduct with special allegations of possession or use of a deadly weapon in the commission of a felony, second degree criminal sexual conduct with special allegations of possession or use of a deadly weapon in the commission of a felony, burglary, and fourth degree criminal sexual conduct.

One evening last May, the young woman who fell victim got into an argument with her boyfriend and went to her neighbor's home. The neighbor went looking for the victim's boyfriend while the victim sat on the couch and waited. Certeza then appeared and struck up a conversation with the victim. He then removed a black handgun from his pocket, demanded that the victim perform fellatio, and told her he would "blow her up" and threatened to kill a family member of hers if she didn't. Fearful that Certeza would carry out his threats, she did as he demanded. After being startled by barking dogs a few minutes later, Certeza threatened her once more, and left.

About a month later, the victim was asleep in her own bed and was awakened to her legs being spread apart. She was then blindfolded and a cloth was tied around her mouth. The victim, who thought it was her live-in boyfriend, thought nothing of it until she reached back, noting that the person she felt behind her was not her boyfriend. Certeza pulled her up in to a sitting position and removed the blindfold and mouth cover. Certeza held a knife to her neck and demanded the victim to perform fellatio. The victim at first refused, but then did as Certeza ordered after he once again threatened the life of one of her family members.

"I'd like to recognize the young woman who testified against her perpetrator and who was a key element in locking him away. I'd also like to thank the Guam Police Department's Victim Assistance Unit for providing invaluable testimony at trial; the advocate did a great job at depicting what she saw when the victim was put in her care," said Assistant Attorney General Elizabeth Vasiliades.

"it is always an extremely difficult situation for victims to first of all report being violated; the difficulty becomes worse when they actually face their accusers," said Attorney General Leonardo M. Rapadas.

"I'm constantly amazed at the bravery of victims during the judicial process, and their assistance in the convictions of their perpetrators," he continued.

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Certeza faces 15 years to life imprisonment for each of the first degree criminal sexual conduct charges and 5-25 years imprisonment for each of the special allegation charges. His sentencing hearing is scheduled for August 04, 2014.

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