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Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore today released the following statement:

Last week, prosecutors obtained two courtroom verdicts that removed violent offenders from the community for significant periods of time. One defendant had beaten his former girlfriend and left her for dead, and the other involved alleged gang members who forced themselves into a couple's house in a violent home invasion robbery.

Prosecutors Abbey Fowler and Marc Chavez presented evidence that, in December of 2010, Company was one of three men who entered a home in Lago Vista, in order to raid the homeowners' safe room. They were armed with a gun and a hammer, and wore masks and gloves. In their attempts to get the code to the room they assaulted the male owner of the house, leaving him lying unconscious on the floor in a pool of his own blood. They then duct-taped his wife to a chair. Desperate to save her husband and herself, she gave them the code to the safe room, which did not contain the cash the intruders were searching for. When the robbers exited the safe room they discovered that the husband had regained consciousness and gone in search of help. The intruders fled the home, leaving the wife still taped to the chair.

Company was eventually identified by his DNA and subsequently confessed to the Texas Rangers. Last week, he admitted his guilt under oath and in the presence of the jury, before they deliberated and sentenced him to 23 years in prison. Of the other two intruders, one has already been sentenced to prison and the other has not yet been identified.

Abbey Fowler, lead prosecutor on the case, said: "We are pleased that the family finally has closure and has seen justice done after this long and painful ordeal. My thanks go to the Texas Rangers, the Lago Vista Police Department, and the Travis County Sheriff's Office for their assistance and unwavering commitment to solving this terrible crime."

That same day, in another Travis County courtroom, Efrain DeLaFuente and Christy May obtained a guilty verdict and a fifty-year sentence in the trial of Robert Israel. He had been charged with three counts of Aggravated Assault Family Violence (which included allegations he used a deadly weapon and caused serious bodily injury) after a vicious attack on his former girlfriend in March of 2015. The assault was so bad that Israel called his brother for help, thinking he'd killed the victim. Although she survived, she suffered extensive damage to her face, and lasting visual and neurological issues.

The jury found Israel guilty of all three counts of Aggravated Assault Family Violence, with affirmative findings that the incident involved both a deadly weapon and family violence. The affirmative findings will delay his eligibility for parole. The lengthy sentence came after prosecutors presented evidence that Israel had been on parole at the time of the incident for aggravated robbery of an elderly couple here in Austin.

Prosecutor Efrain DeLaFuente said: "The jury seemed to have little sympathy for a violent and repeat offender, and we're grateful they handed down such a long prison sentence. Our victim's bravery in surviving this attack and testifying against her abuser deserved nothing less. Our thanks go to lead detective Darrell Gibson and others within the Travis County Sheriff's Office, without whom this successful prosecution would have not been possible."

In response to both verdicts, Mrs. Moore stated: "These cases demonstrate that this office will pursue with vigor and determination those who prey on our community and use violence to harm innocent citizens. Whether the victim is an abused ex-girlfriend, or a couple assaulted in the safety of their own home, we will continue to work with the police to ensure justice for all victims of violent crime."