



## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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**For Immediate Release**

February 3, 2017

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

Today, February 3, 2017, Jesse Ocampo was sentenced to fifteen years in prison for the felony crime of arson, after torching his ex-girlfriend's car in an apartment complex parking lot.

Ocampo had been indicted for second-degree arson, which carries a punishment range of two to twenty years, and a possible \$10,000 fine. He pled to fifteen years after investigators Dave Mahoney, Mike Henderson, and Joe Nichols from the Travis County DA's office unearthed disturbing information about other crimes Ocampo committed in the aftermath of the arson. The DA investigators learned that Ocampo fled to Dallas where he assaulted his cousin with a baseball bat, and when arrested on that charge broke out the back window of a Dallas Police patrol car. Ocampo subsequently bonded out of jail and traveled back to Austin, where he assaulted his ex-girlfriend in broad daylight in the parking lot, and smashed her apartment windows. Police were called to the scene by a child who was present and witnessed the assault.

In addition, investigators discovered that Ocampo had previously held a gun to the same ex-girlfriend, forcing her children to watch that ordeal. After his arrest, Ocampo made further threats against her, specifically saying he would burn down the victim's home to kill her, and her children. He also threatened to kill two eye-witnesses to the arson, and even assaulted someone while in jail – a deaf cell-mate who had the courage to report those threats.

Assistant District Attorney Jessica Huynh, who prosecuted the case, said: "We are grateful to the victim of this crime for her bravery and strength of character she showed throughout this process. It was clear after multiple meetings that her primary goal was to keep her family safe. We also wanted to recognize the dedication and determination of the Austin Fire Department's Arson Investigation Unit and our DA's Office investigative team who pieced together the destructive and violent path the defendant chose to take."

