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On Wednesday, a jury in Travis County's 427th District Court convicted 32 year old Franklin Aguilar-Estrada of two counts of Sexual Assault and one count of Aggravated Kidnapping. On Thursday, that same jury handed down a sentence of 40 years in prison for the Aggravated Kidnapping and 20 years in prison on each count of Sexual Assault (the maximum punishment for Sexual Assault).

The charges stemmed from an incident that occurred in the early morning of December 14, 2013. The victim, who elected to use a pseudonym for court, was with a friend on 6th Street celebrating her birthday and college graduation. The victim's friend, Brittany Toliver, testified that the victim became intoxicated and Brittany tried to find a taxi to take them home. As they were leaving a club, Aguilar-Estrada approached and offered them a ride. He helped place the unconscious victim in the back seat of his car and during the drive home, made sexual advances to Brittany, which she refused. Upon arriving at the victim's home, Brittany exited the car and Aguilar-Estrada drove away with the unconscious victim before Brittany could open the door to get her out of the car.

The victim testified that she awoke in the back seat of the car as she was being sexually assaulted by Aguilar-Estrada, and that he choked and beat her when she resisted. She escaped the vehicle at some point and ran to a motel to call 911. Austin Police responded and found her wearing only a shirt, bra, and socks. The DNA of the assailant was recovered as a result of a sexual assault exam, but the police did not have a suspect until 2016.

During the punishment phase of the trial, the jury heard evidence that Aguilar-Estrada had been convicted of a similar sex offense that occurred in Houston. The Houston offense happened six months after the Austin offense. The victim from the Houston case testified in the punishment phase and described a similar attack by Aguilar-Estrada after being offered a ride from a bar. In that case, the victim jumped from a moving car to escape him. After Aguilar-Estrada was convicted in the Houston case, his DNA was entered into a central DNA database used by law enforcement to investigate unsolved cases. The database produced a match to the DNA from the previously unsolved Austin case and experts testified at trial that the DNA obtained from the sexual assault exam performed in 2013 matched Aguilar-Estrada. The victim in the Austin case thanked the jury from the witness stand and said that their Guilty verdict allowed her to finally feel like someone believed her.

Following the verdict, lead prosecutor Matt Campbell stated, "I was incredibly moved by the courage and strength displayed by both of these women. I was proud to see how the two victims came together and sought support from each other during the trial."