



Riverside County District Attorney

CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

PAUL E. ZELLERBACH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

For Immediate Release
Aug. 2, 2011

John Hall
Senior Public Information Specialist
Contact: 951.955.8662

JURY CONVICTS SERIAL RAPIST WHOSE TONGUE WAS PARTIALLY BITTEN OFF IN 2009 MURRIETA ATTACK

MURRIETA – A Riverside County jury today, Aug. 2, 2011, convicted a West Covina man in a series of brutal rapes including a 2009 attack in Murrieta during which the victim bit off a piece of the rapist’s tongue.

Ronald Douglas McGowan Jr, DOB: 9-23-76, was found guilty of three counts of rape, four counts of rape of a spouse, two counts of assault with force likely to produce great bodily injury, and one count each of robbery, sodomy by force or fear, and use of force causing serious bodily injury. Jurors also found true numerous enhancements including multiple victims and tying or binding a victim. McGowan faces multiple life terms when he returns to be sentenced. The date for his sentencing has not yet been set and is expected to be scheduled sometime tomorrow.

On June 5, 2009, a woman called 911 saying she had just been raped inside her Murrieta apartment and that the attacker was outside trying to get back inside. When officers arrived a short time later, the rapist was gone but he left behind a portion of his tongue (about the size of a 50-cent piece) which the victim had bitten off and spit out during the attack. McGowan badly beat and choked the woman and stole her cell phone. While at the hospital with the injured woman, police were notified that a man was at the same hospital saying he cut his tongue on a can. Although police recovered the piece of the tongue at the crime scene, doctors were unable to reattach it. McGowan met the woman on a website where she advertised “erotic services.”

After subsequent media reports of McGowan’s arrest, three more women came forward and told police they too had been raped by him. One of the women was his ex-wife who told police McGowan raped her numerous times and often slapped and punched her during the attacks. Another woman who reported being raped met McGowan while he was married and working as a food distributor. The third woman was, like the victim in the Murrieta rape, a prostitute who advertised on a website and met McGowan through that site. That victim said McGowan pinned her down and choked her during the April 2009 attack and stole her cell phone. None of the four women raped by McGowan knew any of the other victims.

McGowan is a convicted sex offender, having been convicted in 1995 in Sonoma County of multiple crimes, including several sex offenses.

The case, SWF028686, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Jennifer Garcia of the Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Unit.