



Twelfth Judicial District
State of New Mexico
OTERO, LINCOLN COUNTIES

JOHN P. SUGG
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 6, 2018
Carrizozo, New Mexico

JOSEPH MENDOZA SENTENCED TO 18 YEARS IN PRISON FOR ATTACK ON JAIL GUARD

Twelfth Judicial District Attorney John P. Sugg announced today that the Honorable Daniel A. Bryant sentenced Joseph Mendoza, age 37, to serve 18 years in prison for attacking a corrections officer at the Lincoln County Detention Center (LCDC). Mendoza pleaded no contest to Possession of a Deadly Weapon by a Prisoner and Conspiracy to Commit Kidnapping earlier this year.

In November 2016, Mendoza was being held at the LCDC for an upcoming hearing on an unrelated felony shoplifting case. Mendoza, and his co-defendant Demario Allen, attacked a corrections officer as the corrections officer was attempting to leave the cell pod. Allen jumped on the officer's back tackling him to the ground while Mendoza attempted to gain control of the officer's arms.

When additional officers responded to the cell pod, Mendoza and Allen pulled out shanks that they had made from the handle of a wooden squeegee. The officers were able to retreat locking Mendoza in the cell pod, but Allen was able to get out of the cell pod and into the hall where he stabbed the guard striking him the rib area. The officer was not cut but did suffer a fractured rib during the attack.

Mendoza will not begin serving his sentence in this case until he completes a 4-year prison term he is serving on an unrelated Shoplifting conviction out of Lincoln County. He will also be required to serve 5 years of supervised probation following his release from prison. Mendoza's co-defendant, Demario Allen, is serving a total term of 31½ years in prison for his role in this case as well as unrelated felony cases in both Lincoln and Chaves Counties.

This case was prosecuted by District Attorney John P. Sugg and investigated by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office.

###