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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONVICTIONS IN FOUR SEPARATE FELONY CASES RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT PRISON TIME

EL PASO, TEXAS - The El Paso District Attorney's Office wants to single out four cases resulting in prison time for the defendants. They were all adjudicated on the same day, Thursday, Jan. 30, in the 409th District Court, with Judge Sam Medrano presiding.

Jeweltee Refghio Perez, 23, of Sunland Park, NM, pleaded guilty to a second-degree felony of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. On May 16, 2024, Perez went into a dollar retail store at 6100 N. Mesa Street and minutes later, repeatedly stabbed a female employee. Perez then chased the victim out of the store while wielding a knife, according to witness statements to El Paso police officers. The victim, 29, was seriously wounded and needed hospitalization. Perez was sentenced to 16 years in state prison.

Jonathan Lopez, 23, of El Paso, pleaded guilty to four counts of injury to a child, a first-degree felony. On Jan. 24, 2024, Lopez took the victim, a two-month-old girl, to Del Sol Medical Center for treatment of a broken elbow. He claimed the victim's brother, age two, jumped on the baby girl while they were on the couch. Medical staff deemed the injuries inconsistent with Lopez's narrative. Nurses found the infant also had fractured ribs and a skull fracture. Lopez was sentenced to 10 years in state prison.

Carlos Alberto Ruiz, 42, of El Paso, pleaded guilty to one count of robbery, a second-degree felony. On Sept. 25, 2024, El Paso police were called to Cielo Vista Mall about a robbery. The victim, a JC Penney employee, said he tried to stop Ruiz from leaving the store with a suitcase when Ruiz swung the suitcase, hitting the employee. Police found Ruiz with additional stolen merchandise, including clothing. Ruiz was sentenced to two years in state prison.

Javier Rodriguez, 28, pleaded guilty to four counts of human smuggling, one count of possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), and one count of assaulting a public servant, all of which are third-degree felonies. On Dec. 23, 2023, law enforcement agents with the Texas Department of Public Safety were surveilling a hotel in West El Paso when they saw a black SUV pull into the parking lot. They then saw several people climb into the SUV. DPS troopers conducted a traffic stop and noticed four people lying in the back of the SUV. When they attempted to detain Rodriguez, he fought back, hitting a trooper in the face. Rodriguez was sentenced to three years in state prison.

The District Attorney's Office commends the work of all the law enforcement agencies that investigated these crimes as it continues to hold people accountable for their actions.

Assistant District Attorneys Manuel Papadakis and Omar Silva Gutierrez represented the State of Texas in their prosecution of the cases.

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