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CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

**TEMECULA MAN CONVICTED OF RAPE,
FACES SENTENCE OF 180 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON**

FRENCH VALLEY – After about three hours of deliberating today, Feb. 8, 2010, a Riverside County jury convicted a Temecula man of six sex-related crimes including forcible rape using a knife.

Rafael Solorio, 27, lived in an apartment on Moraga Road in Temecula when the crime happened on June 5, 2008.

Solorio's wife sold Tupperware at the time and the victim supplied his wife with the products. On the day of the crime, Solorio called the victim, then 41, and asked her to bring Tupperware catalogs to his apartment for his wife. The victim came over and Solorio asked her to come in because his wife had some questions for her.

When the victim stepped inside, Solorio tackled her, threatened her with a knife and demanded money. She said she didn't have any so he demanded sex and threatened her family if she did not comply. The victim was then forcibly raped and sexually assaulted several times in the man's apartment.

About 90 minutes after the brutal attack began, the victim saw a clock, realized how long she had been there and told Solorio to either kill her or let her go. Solorio forced her to take a shower and let her go after she promised not to report the crimes.

Solorio was found guilty of two counts each of rape by force or fear, oral copulation with force and sexual penetration by force. The jury also found him guilty of the use of a knife allegation.

Judge Dennis McConaghy set a sentencing date of March 19, 2010, in Dept. S205 at the Southwest Justice Center in French Valley. Solorio faces a sentence of 180 years to life in prison.

The case, SWF025993, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Jess Walsh.

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