



NEWS RELEASE

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PATERSON MAN SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS FOR AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ASSAULT UPON CHILD

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

June 10, 2020

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes announces that Elias Cano, 24, of Paterson, New Jersey, was sentenced to twenty-five years New Jersey State Prison by the Honorable Sohail Mohammed, a Judge of the Superior Court.

Elias Cano was arrested on August 10, 2018 after an investigation conducted by the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit. The investigation revealed that Mr. Cano had sexually assaulted a nine-year old child whom he was babysitting.

During the month of October 2019, Judge Mohammed presided over a jury trial wherein the State presented the victim's forensic video interview regarding Mr. Cano's sexual abuse of her for the jury's consideration. The State also presented live testimony from the victim, the victim's mother, and members of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit who were involved in the investigation of this matter. On October 31, 2019, a Passaic County jury convicted Mr. Cano of Aggravated Sexual Assault, First Degree, Sexual Assault, Second Degree, and Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Second Degree.

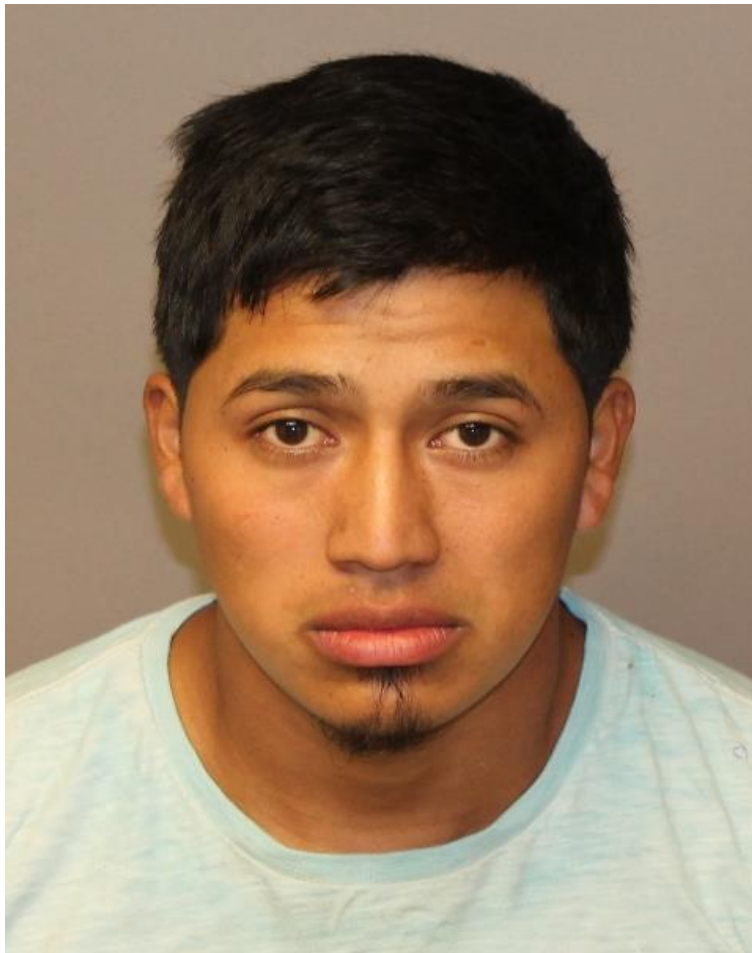
Mr. Cano's conviction for Aggravated Sexual Assault, First Degree, falls under the provisions of the Jessica Lunsford Act, which was signed into law in the State of New Jersey in 2014 and requires sentencing courts to impose an enhanced punishment for a defendant convicted of aggravated sexual assault of a victim who is less than thirteen-years old.

On June 10, 2020, Judge Mohammed sentenced Mr. Cano to twenty-five years New Jersey State Prison, subject to a twenty-five year parole disqualifier. Upon

release from prison, Mr. Cano will be subject to Parole Supervision for Life and Megan's Law registration requirements. The victim and her family watched the sentencing hearing via the New Jersey Courts Public Channel.

Passaic County Assistant Prosecutor Alyssa DiSturco represented the State during the jury trial before Judge Mohammed and Genesis Peduto, Esq. represented Mr. Cano.

Media inquiries should be directed to Assistant Prosecutor Alyssa DiSturco of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit at (862) 289-2106 (cell) or adisturco@passaiccountynj.org.



Elias Cano