COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOHN T. SAVRNOCH District Attorney



RELEASE NUMBER

01 - 714

January 11, 2024

RELEASE DATE

Jennifer Karapetian, Chief Deputy District Attorney

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***** PRESS RELEASE ******

Re: People v. Aharon Zebulun Israel Brown, Santa Barbara Case No. 22CR04515

Santa Barbara County District Attorney John T. Savrnoch announced today that 25-year-old Defendant Aharon Zebulun Israel Brown pled guilty to various charges related to stalking Jane Doe, a resident of Santa Barbara and Los Angeles Counties. Specifically, the defendant pled to the following charges: Stalking Jane Doe from February 1, 2021, to June 26, 2022, while she had an active restraining order, in violation of Penal Code section 646.9(b); committing First Degree Residential Burglary at her Montecito residence on June 26, 2022, in violation of Penal Code section 459; and making Criminal Threats against Jane Doe on September 10, 2021, in Los Angeles County, in violation of Penal Code section 422.

During the period from February 2021 to September 2021, the defendant broke into Jane Doe's Hollywood residence over 92 times. On September 10, 2021, the defendant wielded a knife at Jane Doe's security team, threatening the lives of both Jane Doe and two security officers. A Los Angeles County Judge granted a 5-year restraining order against the defendant on October 5, 2021. Despite these measures, the defendant continued to pose a threat to Jane Doe.

On June 26, 2022, the defendant forcibly entered Jane Doe's Montecito home, disabling security systems with a screwdriver, and cutting wires to the alarm and telephone lines. Law enforcement promptly responded and apprehended the defendant after a K-9 found him hiding in a crawl space inside the home.

Further investigation revealed the defendant's extensive efforts to stalk Jane Doe, including online searches related to her personal and professional life, attempts to determine her residence, and strategies to overcome her security measures. The defendant possessed over 2,000 images or videos of Jane Doe and sent threatening Instagram messages between May 26, 2022, and June 26, 2022, expressing intentions of harm.

District Attorney Savrnoch expressed gratitude to Jane Doe and her security team for their courage and resilience. He also acknowledged Santa Barbara Sheriff's Sergeant Tony Kouremetis for leading the investigation with exceptional skill in stalking and threat assessments. Furthermore, Chief Deputy District Attorney Jennifer Karapetian, who spearheaded the prosecution, exhibited outstanding leadership, ensuring justice for Jane Doe prevailed.

Sentencing is scheduled for May 3, 2024, in Department 2 of the Santa Barbara Superior Court, before the Honorable Pauline Maxwell. The defendant will be sentenced to three years, eight months in state prison sentence, and will be subject to a 10-year restraining order, preventing any contact with Jane Doe.

If you or someone you know is experiencing stalking, there are supportive resources available. The Victim Witness Assistance Program with the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office can help. Please visit our website at https://da.countyofsb.org/da/vwdv or contact us at 805-568-2400.

The Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County can assist with obtaining restraining orders. For further information, visit their website: https://lafsbc.org/ or contact them at one of their three locations: Santa Barbara: (805) 963-6754, Santa Maria: 805-922-9909, Lompoc: 805-736-6582.