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Salt Lake County District Attorney Charges Defendant in Crime Spree

Salt Lake City, UT: Today, the Salt Lake County District Attorney's office filed a 39 count felony criminal complaint against Helema Jose Bar Pragana (attached). The defendant is alleged to have started his criminal conduct on or about April 2, 2011 and continued through approximately November 1, 2011. It is alleged that the defendant engaged in multiple felonies at multiple locations with multiple victims over an extended eight month period. The range of the defendant's alleged criminal conduct included Aggravated Robbery, Burglary, Criminal Mischief, Aggravated Kidnapping, Aggravated Sexual Assault, Forcible Sodomy, Aggravated Burglary, Attempted Aggravated Robbery and Kidnapping and Obstruction of Justice. The defendant is alleged to have robbed, kidnapped and sexually assaulted multiple victims throughout this period. It is alleged that the defendant would often wait and approach various victims with a handgun as they tried to withdraw money from an ATM or forced them to take money out of an ATM at gunpoint. It is further alleged that the defendant used this handgun in the commission of the various alleged sexual assaults.

The Salt Lake County District Attorney's office applauds the hard work of various law enforcement agencies in their diligence in investigating and putting together the evidence to apprehend and prosecute this defendant. The range of the defendant's alleged criminal conduct occurred in multiple law enforcement jurisdictions. The filing of these charges today brings to an end a crime spree by a person who had victimized multiple individuals and presented an ongoing risk to the community. The defendant is being held at the Salt Lake County jail with \$1,000,007 bail.

A copy of the charging document is attached.

All persons accused of crimes are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

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