



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

1/24/17

DINUBA JEWELRY STORE THIEF CONVICTED OF ARMED ROBBERY

Yesterday in Department 5 of the Tulare County Superior Court, Visalia Division, Judge Joseph Kalashian presiding, a Tulare County jury convicted Roberto Gonzalez Barba, age 21, of Visalia, of robbing a Dinuba jewelry store at gunpoint in 2016.

A 7:52 pm on April 1, 2016, Barba, wearing a baseball hat and rag over his mouth, entered the store and held four employees and seven customers, including two children, at gunpoint. After threatening employees not to sound the store alarm, Barba used the gun to smash a glass jewelry case. Barba then took \$42,288 worth of gold bracelets, necklaces, earrings, charms, and rings, 124 gold items in all, before casually walking out of the store. The next day, one of the witnesses came forward as having recognized Barba, but did not say anything initially out of fear. Barba was arrested later that day. Blood drops found inside and outside of the store were later matched to Barba.

Barba was convicted of four felony counts of armed robbery with the special allegations of using a firearm, four felony counts of assault with a firearm with the special allegations of personal use of a firearm, one felony count of being a masked criminal with a firearm in a public place, one felony count of dissuading a witness, and two misdemeanor counts of resisting arrest. He is set for sentencing on March 3, 2017, where he faces a possible sentence of 37 years and 8 months in state prison.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Diva Aziz and investigated by Detective John Jobe of the Dinuba Police Department.

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