

**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Notice of Conviction*  
**Cherokee County Jury Finds Man Guilty of Rape and Other Crimes**  
**State vs. Mariano Delfino Diego-Tercero**

**February 2, 2024** – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that today Mariano Diego-Tercero, 35, of Canton, was found guilty of all charges, to include rape, aggravated assault (2 counts), and criminal attempt to commit a felony. Chief Superior Court Judge Ellen McElyea announced that sentencing will be set for Friday, February 9.

Charges stem from a Canton Police Department investigation that began in November 2022, when a woman reported that she was raped by Diego-Tercero in Canton. The woman said that Diego-Tercero placed a knife to her neck while forcing himself on her. The defendant was known to the woman and her family.

During the five-day trial, the victim, law enforcement officers, and a sexual assault nurse who is an expert on trauma testified for the State. Additionally, a second woman provided testimony concerning similar sexual predatory acts committed by the defendant at a different time.

The jury deliberated for approximately three hours before finding the defendant guilty of all charges.

The case was investigated by the Canton Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant District Alana Driscoll, with the assistance of Assistant District Attorney Meaghan Frankish, of the Special Victims Unit, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

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*The Office of the District Attorney for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit is committed to seeking justice, acting with integrity, and collaborating with partner agencies in the criminal justice system in order to protect the citizens of Cherokee County and the State of Georgia.*

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