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June 16, 2026
For Immediate Release

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Ex-Convict Who Viciously Stabbed MTS Bus Driver Sentenced to Prison

Mario Felix Attacked Bus Driver After Not Getting Free Ride

San Diego County District Attorney [Summer Stephan](#) announced today that a man who stabbed an MTS bus driver in August 2024 nearly a dozen times as passengers looked on, has been sentenced to prison.

Mario Felix, 51, who pleaded guilty to attempted murder in March, has been sentenced to 26 years in prison.

“No one should fear for their life as they are performing their job, especially while they are in service to others as the victim was in this case by providing transportation to commuters,” DA Stephan said. “Unfortunately, attacks on bus drivers and other transportation workers have increased and as District Attorney, I want these valuable workers to know that they deserve safety and dignity. Attacks against them will be taken seriously. I want to commend the victim for his courage in persisting in the pursuit of justice alongside our team despite all the severe injuries from this vicious attack and the emotional trauma that it caused.”

In August 2024, the MTS bus driver was making a stop at the Escondido Sprinter Station when Felix boarded the bus and asked for a free ride. When the driver told Felix that he must pay, he became enraged and demanded the driver’s wallet and threatened to kill him before unleashing a series of ferocious stabs, severely injuring the victim.

Witnesses followed Felix and he was later arrested by police hiding behind a dumpster and the bloody knife was found nearby.

Deputy DA Keith Watanabe and Deputy DA Miranda Tomaneng prosecuted this case, and the DA Victims Services team provided support to the victim throughout the pendency of the case.

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About the San Diego County District Attorney's Office

The San Diego County DA's Office prosecutes all felony crimes in the county and misdemeanor crimes committed outside the City of San Diego. The office files about 40,000 criminal cases a year and balances prosecution with numerous crime prevention programs. District Attorney Summer Stephan leads the office of more than 1,000 dedicated employees who pursue fair and equal justice, and support victims daily across San Diego County.