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**Fugitive Fernando David Maldonado Captured in Mexico
Returned to the U.S. for Sentencing**

Martinez, Calif. – On Wednesday April 4, 2018, Fernando David Maldonado was extradited back to the United States from Mexico to face sentencing for his 2017 conviction on 23 counts of child molestation.

After Maldonado was charged by the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office and arrested in 2015, he was released on \$1.29 million bail. On December 4, 2017, Maldonado went to trial. After a jury was sworn and evidence was presented against him, Maldonado failed to appear for court on December 11, 2017. The trial proceeded without him and on December 13, 2017, Maldonado was convicted of all 23 counts.

Maldonado was a former pastor at multiple churches in Contra Costa County. For a period of over two years, Maldonado sexually assaulted his victim. The victim attended his church services and was under the age of 14 when the assaults started.

An investigation revealed that on or about December 9, 2017, Maldonado fled to Mexico to avoid sentencing and incarceration for his conviction. The District Attorney's Office partnered with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office Fugitive Unit and the United States Marshals Service in an attempt to locate Maldonado and return him to Contra Costa County for sentencing.

On April 3, 2018, Maldonado was deported by the Mexican government and returned to the United States. Maldonado was flown to Los Angeles International Airport from Mexico City and booked at the Los Angeles Police Department jail. Maldonado will be transported back to Contra Costa County once his extradition has been approved by a Superior Court Judge in Los Angeles County.

Maldonado is scheduled to be sentenced on April 13, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in front of the Honorable Clare Maier, Contra Costa County Superior Court Judge. Contra Costa Deputy District Attorney Jordan Sanders is the lead prosecutor on this case for the District Attorney's Office.

The District Attorney's Office expresses our gratitude to the Fugitive Unit at the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office and to the United States Marshals Service for their work returning Maldonado to the United States to face justice.

Case information: People v. Maldonado, Docket Number 05-161903-0

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