

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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**Former UCSB Student Convicted of Forcible Rape and Sexual Assault Following
Three-Month Jury Trial**

Re: *People v. Arian Eteghaei*
Santa Barbara County Superior Court 21CR80023

SANTA BARBARA, Calif., January 20, 2026 - Santa Barbara County District Attorney John T. Savrnoch announced today that, following a three-month trial, a jury returned guilty verdicts against 23-year-old former University of California, Santa Barbara student Arian Eteghaei for Forcible Sexual Penetration, Misdemeanor Domestic Violence, and Forcible Rape involving two victims.

The jury also found true a special allegation that the crimes were committed against more than one victim. Jurors were unable to reach a verdict on the remaining fourteen counts.

“The victims in this case showed remarkable bravery by coming forward, reporting the crimes, and taking the stand to testify during this lengthy trial. Their courage made it possible for the jury to hold the defendant accountable for his actions. I also want to commend Senior Deputy District Attorney Lauren Franco and her team, DA Investigator Chad Hunt, Victim Advocate Supervisor Tiffany Carty, Victim Advocate Lourdes Negrete, the UCSB Police Department—particularly Sergeant Arlene Samienego and former Detective Koven Avila—and the victims themselves for their strength and courage throughout this complex case,” said District Attorney Savrnoch.

Sentencing is scheduled for April 8, 2026, in Department 11 of the Santa Barbara County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge Von Deorian. The defendant was remanded without bail and will remain in custody pending sentencing. He faces a potential sentence of 30 years to life in state prison.

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