Prisoner pleads guilty to sexual assault cold case from 14 years ago; faces up to 40 more years

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DENVER - A man who previously said he had never seen a sexual assault victim has changed his story, and pleaded guilty to the charge.

Dony Salazar, 31, pled guilty to second degree kidnapping and a crime of violence. These charges were for an attack committed in December 2000, which has been considered a cold case for nearly 15 years.

The victim, who has not been identified and was 40 years old when the crime occurred, was standing at a bus stop in northwest Denver. She was forced at gunpoint into the backyard of a nearby house, where she was sexually assaulted multiple times.

"No one was arrested in the case at the time, but it was reopened as part of Denver's Cold Case Project and solved through a DNA hit," said Lynn Kimbrough of the Denver District Attorney's office.

Salazar is already in prison serving a 20-year sentence for stabbing a pregnant woman in 2001. Salazar was accused of stealing the woman's truck and crashing it into a tree, injuring her two children who were still inside.

Police interviewed Salazar in prison and showed him a picture of the 40-year-old sexual assault victim from the cold case, according to an arrest report. The report states Salazar "was adamant that he has never seen" the victim of the assault and that he had never had sex with her.

Salazar's sentencing is scheduled for April 21, and he could face up to 40 years in prison on top of the sentence he is already serving.

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