



AG STRANGE ANNOUNCES COLD CASE PROSECUTION FOR
SEX CRIMES, OTHER OFFENSES IN 2006 IN CALHOUN COUNTY

(MONTGOMERY)--Attorney General Luther Strange announced that an arraignment hearing that had been set for today was waived and prosecution is proceeding against a defendant charged with the kidnapping, rape, sodomy and robbery of a woman who was the victim of a violent attack in Calhoun County in 2006. Patrick O'Neal Warren, 35, of Birmingham, entered a plea of not guilty. The charges against him are the result of an investigation by the Attorney General's Cold Case Unit.

Attorney General Strange's Office presented information to a Calhoun County grand jury resulting in Warren's indictment in February 2011. He remains incarcerated in the Calhoun County Jail on a bond totaling \$100,000.

Specifically, the indictment charges Warren with the following crimes against a woman who was attacked on April 28, 2006: one count of first-degree kidnapping with intent to commit rape, sodomy and robbery; one count of first-degree rape, one count of first-degree sodomy; one count of first-degree robbery in which a knife was used to steal the victim's vehicle. The indictment identifies Warren as being also known as Patrick O'Neal, Phillip Patrick and Patrick Warner.

No further information about the investigation or about Warren's alleged crimes other than that stated in the indictment may be released at this time.

If convicted, Warren faces a maximum penalty of life imprisonment for each of the charges of rape, sodomy and kidnapping, which are class A felonies, and up to 20 years for the charge of robbery, which is a class B felony. Warren already is subject to provisions of the community notification law regarding sex offenders due to his pleading guilty to first-degree rape in 2001 in Jefferson County.

The Attorney General's Cold Case Unit is a project conducted in partnership with the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences, to investigate violent sexual crimes that previously had been closed due to lack of investigative leads. This program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. Valuable assistance was provided in the Warren case by the Anniston and Birmingham police departments.

**An indictment is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*

