



ELLIS COUNTY & DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PATRICK M. WILSON

ELLIS COUNTY COURTS BUILDING • 109 S. JACKSON • WAXAHACHIE, TX 75165 • (972) 825-5035 • Fax (972) 825-5047

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ann Montgomery, 972-825-5035 (ann.montgomery@co.ellis.tx.us)

MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR SHOOTING HIS WIFE

On Monday, October 28, 2013, an Ellis County jury convicted Mahmud Suleiman Qalawi, 44, a butcher from Venus, Texas, of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon - family violence. On October 29th the same jury sentenced Qalawi to five years in prison.

On September 30, 2011, Qalawi came home from work around 5:00 p.m. Shortly thereafter witnesses in the home could hear Qalawi and his wife, Dora, arguing. While Dora was in the laundry room a shot was fired. One witness walked out of a bedroom to see what was going on and saw Dora on the floor with a gunshot to her stomach area. Qalawi called 911 to get help for his wife, stating that she was playing with a gun and accidentally shot herself.

Before officers and EMS arrived, Qalawi told Dora to tell them that she shot herself. Venus Police arrived and detained Qalawi. A police officer found a .40 cal magazine in Qalawi's pants pocket. The same officer then went inside and asked Dora who shot her. Dora said, "I can't say." Later, the officer asked Dora, "Why did he shoot you?" She said, "Because he was mad." Dora was then taken by Careflight helicopter to John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, where she had five surgeries. During book-in, a .40 cal casing was found in Qalawi's pants pocket. A .40 Glock handgun was later recovered from the Qalawi home. The magazine and casing matched the gun.

During the trial, the victim was a reluctant witness who testified in support of her husband during the punishment phase. She testified, however, that she was not playing with or holding a gun on the night she was shot, and that she does not even like guns.

At the close of the punishment phase on October 29th, prosecutor Amy Nguyen matter-of-factly implored the jury, "If you point a gun at your wife and shoot her in the stomach you should go to prison." The Ellis County and District Attorney's Office thanks the jury for their verdict and their service in this case.

