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NEWS RELEASE

From: Charles J. Ballay  
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To: News Media - Via Email

RE: Jury Trial of Lau Thanh Ho  
Aggravated Battery

Date: February 5, 2016

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On Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, a jury in Plaquemines Parish returned a guilty verdict against Lau Thanh Ho of Gretna for the crime of Aggravated Battery.

The case involved Lau Thanh Ho cutting the throat of Phung Tran on the shrimping vessel "Brother Sister" in Tiger Pass near Venice, LA on December 1, 2013. The U.S. Coast Guard was called to the scene and later the investigation was turned over to Detective Brett Taylor of the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office.

Ho had told the Coast Guard that a cable had malfunctioned and caused the laceration on the 52 year old victim's neck. But at trial Ho decided to take the stand and testified that he and Tran were fighting and Tran pulled the knife back into himself. The jury obviously didn't believe Ho and determined that he intentionally cut Tran.

The case was tried by Assistant District Attorney's Joe Roberts and Robert White.

Sentencing is set before Judge Kevin Conner on April 12, 2016. Following the jury conviction Judge Conner remanded Ho to jail.