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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL ALONZO HARVEY,
Petitioner,
v.
F. GONZALES, *et al.*,
Respondents.

Civil No. 10cv2235 JAH(RBB)

**ORDER ADOPTING THE
MAGISTRATE JUDGE’S REPORT
AND RECOMMENDATION AND
DENYING PETITION FOR WRIT
OF HABEAS CORPUS**

[28 U.S.C. § 2254]

INTRODUCTION

Petitioner, a state prisoner proceeding *pro se*, filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. Respondent filed an answer to the petition and petitioner filed a traverse. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1), the Honorable Ruben B. Brooks, United States Magistrate Judge, submitted a report and recommendation (“report”) to this Court recommending the instant petition be denied with prejudice. Objections to the report were due by March 16, 2012, but neither party filed objections. After careful consideration of the pleadings and relevant exhibits submitted by the parties, and for the reasons set forth below, this Court **ADOPTS** the magistrate judge’s report in its entirety and **DENIES** the instant petition in its entirety.

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1 **BACKGROUND**¹

2 On November 21, 2009, petitioner was found guilty, after a jury trial, of
3 premeditated attempted murder, kidnapping for robbery, and attempted robbery.
4 Petitioner was subsequently sentenced to two life terms with the possibility of parole, plus
5 fifty years to life, and five years. Petitioner appealed his conviction on January 20, 2009.
6 The California Court of Appeal upheld petitioner’s kidnapping for robbery and attempted
7 robbery convictions but reversed his attempted murder conviction based on an erroneous
8 jury instruction.

9 Petitioner appealed to the California Supreme Court on October 29, 2009,
10 challenging the sufficiency of the evidence to convict him of aggravated kidnapping for
11 robbery based on the instruction given to the jury. The California Supreme Court denied
12 review without opinion on December 2, 2009. On October 27, 2010, petitioner filed the
13 instant petition. Respondents filed an answer to the petition on January 5, 2011 and
14 petitioner filed his traverse on February 17, 2011. The magistrate judge’s report was filed
15 on February 16, 2012. No objections to the report were filed by either party.

16 **DISCUSSION**

17 **I. Legal Standard**

18 The district court’s role in reviewing a Magistrate Judge’s report and
19 recommendation is set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Under this statute, the district
20 court “shall make a *de novo* determination of those portions of the report . . . to which
21 objection is made,” and “may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the findings
22 or recommendations made by the magistrate [judge].” *Id.* When no objections are filed,
23 the Court may assume the correctness of the magistrate judge’s findings of fact and decide
24 the motion on the applicable law. Campbell v. United States Dist. Court, 501 F.2d 196,
25 206 (9th Cir. 1974); Johnson v. Nelson, 142 F. Supp. 2d 1215, 1217 (S.D. Cal. 2001).
26 Under such circumstances, the Ninth Circuit has held that “a failure to file objections only
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28 ¹ The underlying facts set forth in the report are adopted *in toto*, and referenced as if fully set forth herein. This Court provides only a brief procedural background.

1 relieves the trial court of its burden to give *de novo* review to factual findings; conclusions
2 of law must still be reviewed *de novo*.” Barilla v. Ervin, 886 F.2d 1514, 1518 (9th Cir.
3 1989) (citing Britt v. Simi Valley Unified Sch. Dist., 708 F.2d 452, 454 (9th Cir. 1983)).

4 **2. Analysis**

5 The Court received no objections to the report and no request for an extension of
6 time in which to file any objections. As such, the Court assumes the correctness of the
7 magistrate judge’s factual findings and adopts them in full. The Court has conducted a
8 *de novo* review, independently reviewing the report and all relevant papers submitted by
9 both parties, and finds that the report provides a cogent analysis of the claims presented
10 in the instant petition.

11 Specifically, this Court first agrees with the magistrate judge that Warden Gonzales
12 is a proper respondent but former Attorney General Edmund G. Brown is not a proper
13 respondent and should be dismissed. Second, this Court agrees with the magistrate
14 judge’s determination that petitioner’s first ground for relief has not been fully exhausted
15 in state court but should, nevertheless, be addressed on the merits. Based on a thorough
16 *de novo* review of the record, this Court agrees with the magistrate judge’s finding that the
17 trial court did not err when it allowed the introduction of evidence regarding petitioner’s
18 parole status because it was not objectively unreasonable and thus not violative of due
19 process. This Court further agrees that petitioner has not demonstrated the trial court’s
20 failure to give a limiting instruction and tell the jury not to draw any inference from the
21 references to petitioner’s parole status rendered the entire trial fundamentally unfair
22 because his parole status was not admitted to prove he had the propensity to commit the
23 current crime and the court did not allow the prosecutor to discuss the prior conviction
24 which led to petitioner’s parole. Thus, this Court agrees with the magistrate judge that the
25 state court’s rejection of petitioner’s evidentiary error claim contained in ground one was
26 not contrary to, or an unreasonable application of, clearly established federal law and was
27 not based on an unreasonable determination of the facts.

28 Third, this Court agrees with the magistrate judge’s findings and conclusion

1 concerning petitioner's second ground for relief based on the contention that there was
2 insufficient evidence to support his conviction for kidnapping for robbery. This Court's
3 *de novo* review of the record reflects the magistrate judge correctly determined that the
4 evidence supports a finding that the kidnapping began upon petitioner's brandishing a
5 weapon, demanding money and threatening the victim and that the victim's continuing
6 movement was due to fear and the implied threat to keep moving. This Court agrees with
7 the magistrate judge that a reasonable person would not feel free to stop or deviate from
8 the original course after petitioner brandished his weapon and made the threat. Thus,
9 viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the prosecution, this Court agrees that
10 a rational trier of fact would have found petitioner guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of
11 kidnapping for robbery.

12 Lastly, this Court, after a thorough *de novo* review of the record, agrees with the
13 finding that the state court's rejection of petitioner's claim regarding his conviction being
14 based on the victim's failure to consent to her movement at the complex was not contrary
15 to, or an unreasonable application of clearly established Supreme Court law.

16 Accordingly, this Court ADOPTS the magistrate judge's report in full and DENIES
17 the instant petition in its entirety.

18 **CONCLUSION AND ORDER**

19 For the reasons set forth above, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that:

- 20 1. The findings and conclusions of the magistrate judge presented in the Report
21 and Recommendation are **ADOPTED** in their entirety;
22 2. The instant petition is **DENIED with prejudice** in its entirety.
23 3. The Clerk of Court shall enter judgment in accordance with this Order.

24 Dated: June 4, 2012

25 
26 JOHN A. HOUSTON
27 United States District Judge
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