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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: 08/08/08
Re: Home Invasion defendants Ramirez and
Domiguez sentenced to prison

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Steven Ramirez, age 23 of Modesto, and Benjamin Dominguez, age 23, of Modesto pled guilty on August 7th, 2008 to Home Invasion Robbery and Attempted Robbery with an enhancement of being armed with a gun during the course of the robbery.

The case arose out of events which occurred on January 10th, 2006 in the city of Modesto. Ramirez, Dominguez and a third, unidentified, suspect entered an apartment located in the 1400 block of Lakewood Ave. The third person was armed with a shotgun. The three entered the apartment and demanded that the occupants lie on the ground and empty their pockets. When Ramirez entered one of the bedrooms in an attempt to steal money, he was shot four times by the victim/renter of the apartment. After Ramirez had been shot, the third suspect began firing his shotgun. He hit the victim in the hand which caused the victim to subsequently lose three of his fingers. All three suspects fled along with a fourth subject who had not entered the apartment. Ramirez and Dominguez were both apprehended while en route to the hospital. The gunman remains at large.

The Honorable Scott Steffen sentenced Ramirez to state prison for 7 years and 8 months and Dominguez for 4 years 8 months for their roles in the robbery. Both must serve at least 85% of their sentence and they are now three strikers under California's Three Strikes Law. Deputy District Attorney Shawn D. Bessey prosecuted the case for the People.

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