OFFICE OF THE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County

832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354
Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Phone: (209) 525-5550   Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney
Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District Attorneys
Jerry Begen
Steve Casey
Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release   Contact: Carol Shipley, Assistant D.A.
Date: April 14, 2008
Re: Santiago Martinez Larez   Phone: (209)525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Birgit Fladager announced today that Santiago Martinez Larez, age 53, of Modesto, was sentenced to 19 years in prison after a jury convicted him on March 10, 2008 of one count of sodomy of a person under 16 years old, one count of annoying or molesting a child 14 or 15 years of age, and one count of continuous sexual abuse of a child. The Honorable Thomas D. Zeff handed down the sentence following an emotional victim impact statement by the older sister of the teenage victim. Deputy District Attorney Elaine G. Casillas prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events which began when the minor was a young child, and continued into his teenage years in the city of Modesto. The minor reported the sexual acts by Larez to family members on November 29, 2006. After the minor was rushed to Memorial Medical Center, the Modesto Police Department was contacted regarding the sexual assaults. The investigation revealed the young victim was forced to endure several acts of sexual abuse for over a decade.

During the sentencing, Casillas read the victim's impact statement prepared by the male victim, now 17 years old, as he watched from the audience. "You knew this day would come didn't you and you still kept on going with what you were doing. Why? Well it doesn't matter because now you got your just deserves….This is something I've always wanted to say to you for the longest time, it's 'I hate you with a passion' and let you know you don't exist to me as well.

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