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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: June 18, 2009

Assistant district Attorney

Re: Luis Obet Colon
Auto Thief Sentenced to
4 Years

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Luis Obet Colon, age 20, of Modesto, was convicted of residential burglary, auto theft, and possession of methamphetamine. Colon is currently on probation stemming from a commercial burglary conviction from July 2008. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The cases arose out of events that occurred on four different dates. On June 23, 2008 at approximately 2 p.m. in Modesto, a homeowner called the police to report a residential burglary. Partial fingerprints that matched Colon were recovered inside the home. After being arrested, the defendant posted bail and was released from custody.

On July 3, 2008 at approximately 7:30 a.m. in Modesto, the Modesto police officers responded to a report of the theft of a 2004 gold Lexus ES330. The homeowner had failed to close the garage door prior to going to sleep. Partial prints were collected from inside the garage that matched the defendant's fingerprints. After being arrested, the defendant posted bail and was released from custody.

On March 25, 2009 at approximately 1 a.m. in the area of Hatch Road and Carpenter Road in Modesto, Colon was driving a 1997 black Acura Integra that had been reported stolen hours earlier when the victim left the vehicle unlocked and parked on the street while the victim was inside his residence. After being arrested, the defendant posted bail and was released from custody.

On April 9, 2009 at approximately 1:30 p.m. in the area of Hatch Road in Modesto, Colon was a front passenger in a moving vehicle but was not wearing a seat belt. Officers discovered that Colon had warrants for his arrest for his failure to appear for his court cases. In Colon's right front pants' pocket, officers found .12 grams of methamphetamine.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Ricardo Cordova sentenced Colon to four years in prison.

Stanislaus County residents can report suspected vehicle theft activity to their local law enforcement agency or contact the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (STANCATT) at: (209) 545-7316.

IF YOU OBSERVE A THEFT IN PROGRESS, DIAL 911

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