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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Carol Shipley, Assistant District Attorney

Re: Juvenile Gang Members Sent to Prison

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Amonte Jones, age 17, and Kraig Palacio, also age 17, both of Modesto, were sentenced to 7 years in state prison by the Honorable Timothy Salter after being convicted on September 15, 2009 of Assault with a Firearm with an enhancement that the shooting was committed for the benefit of the Norteno criminal street gang. Deputy District Attorney Tom Brennan prosecuted the case for the People.

On January 30, 2009, Jones and Palacio were involved in a gang related fist fight with others. This was in the presence of multiple witnesses. Jones and Palacio are Norteno gang members. Toward the end of the fight, Jones retrieved a sawed off shotgun and handed it to Palacio who fired at the retreating victims. One female victim received non-life threatening shotgun wounds. Jones and Palacio were prosecuted as adults because of the seriousness of the crimes charged.