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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 1, 2009
Re: Santos Martinez - Gang Member
sentenced to 24 years in Prison

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Santos Martinez, age 29, of Modesto, was convicted on August 25, 2009 of armed robbery and admitted that he used a firearm during the commission of the robberies and admitting the crimes were committed for the benefit of the Norteno criminal street gang. Gang prosecutor Thomas Brennan prosecuted the cases for the People.

On October 11, 2006, Martinez entered a Modesto Mini-mart and placed a gun to the head of the 70 year old store owner while demanding money. Martinez fled the store with the victim's wallet. On October 29, 2006, Martinez was detained by police after fleeing from a house during a probation search. Martinez had possession of the victim's wallet when he was apprehended.

Martinez posted bail following his arrest for the October 11, 2006 robbery and was released. On January 4, 2008, Martinez robbed a juvenile in Modesto after brandishing a rifle. Martinez was stopped in the get away car shortly after the robbery. A loaded rifle was found inside the car. Martinez is a documented member of the Norteno criminal street gang.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Scott Steffen sentenced Martinez to 24 years in state prison.