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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: August 11, 2009
Re: Russell Dominic Miles- 90 Years to
Life in Prison for Assault With
Deadly Weapon and First Degree
Burglary

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today, that Russell Dominic Miles was sentenced to three consecutive life terms for a total of 90 years to life by the Honorable Nancy Ashley following a jury trial in June, 2009. Deputy District Attorney Robert J. Taro prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

The case arose from an attack upon several family members in May of 2007. Miles, while armed with a knife, and two other males entered the victims' home on May 28th, 2007 in Modesto at approximately 2:30 a.m. to commit the crime of Burglary. Once inside, Miles encountered a relative sleeping in the living room and assaulted the relative with the knife. During the struggle, the relative suffered a cut to his ear which bled profusely. That victim called out for help and his wife rushed to his aid and tried to pry the attacker from her husband. Miles then attacked the wife as well, kicking her and throwing her against a wall. The wife turned again to Miles and tried to repel Miles's attack against her husband by biting Miles hard on his upper arm. Even though Miles was wearing a black sweatshirt, the bite was hard enough to leave a visible bruise on his skin.

While the attack on the husband and wife was taking place in the living room, the other two assailants were attacking the homeowner in his bedroom. After being bitten, Miles fled the residence and the victims, who only speak Lao, were able to get the neighbors to call 911. Within seconds of the call, a patrol sergeant apprehended Miles trying to ride away from the scene on a bicycle.

Miles had multiple felony convictions which fall under California's Three Strikes law. Taro urged Judge Ashley to impose the 90 year to life sentence noting that Miles was convicted of numerous violent crimes and stated that the "defendant is a violent criminal in our community and comes within the meaning of the 'Three Strikes Law'".

