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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: February 24, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Meliton Coronado Jr
Auto Thief Sentenced to
5 Years Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Meliton Coronado Jr, age 26, of Newman, was convicted of auto theft and domestic violence, and admitted a prior auto theft conviction from May 2003. Coronado has served two prior prison terms. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On November 28, 2008 at approximately 2:00 a.m. in the area of South Carpenter Road in Crows Landing, Coronado slapped his girlfriend in the face before pushing her to the ground and dragging her by the hair into a car. A nearby resident heard the commotion outside his home and asked the victim if she needed help. The victim was able to jump out of the car and call the police. Coronado sped off in the victim's silver Mitsubishi Mirage. An arrest warrant was issued and Coronado was eventually apprehended several months later.

The Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Coronado to five years in state 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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