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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: January 7, 2009  
Re: Alejandro Molina  
Defendant sent to prison for 38 years

**For More Information Contact:**

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Alejandro Molina, age 28, of Modesto, was sentenced to 38 years in prison by the Honorable Timothy Salter after being convicted at a jury trial on November 20, 2009. Deputy District Attorney John Baker prosecuted the case for the People.

On January 22, 2009, Molina and his girlfriend Zulema Tobar, age 20, also of Modesto, entered the Red Lobster restaurant on Sisk Road in Modesto and ordered the restaurant patrons to the ground. Molina was carrying a pistol gripped shotgun. After holding patrons hostage and robbing restaurant employees, Molina and Tobar fled. A police chase ensued and Molina and Tobar were stopped when cornered by police near Briggsmore and Prescott Road.

Molina was convicted of two counts of robbery, five counts of false imprisonment and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. In addition, Molina was found to have served a prior prison term and having been convicted of a felony which falls under California's "Three Strikes Law". Tobar, who testified at trial as a prosecution witness, was previously sentenced to five years in state prison for her role in the robbery.

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