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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: December 10, 2018
Re: Gilberto Cano
Convicted killer denied parole

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Gilberto Cano, age 45, of Modesto, was denied release on parole during a December 4, 2018, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad, California. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On March 20, 2002, Cano used a shoe string to strangle his girlfriend who was 26 weeks pregnant with his child. While she was unconscious, Cano pulled down the victim's maternity pants, raised her sweater and proceeded to use a knife to stab her in the stomach until the knife broke. He then left the house and walked to a relative's home.

Cano admitted to drinking a liter of alcohol earlier that day and witnesses described him as being under the influence of narcotics. A psychologist who examined Cano after his arrest observed him to be "irrational, minimally coherent, and disoriented as to time." He was found to be incompetent to stand trial and was sent to a state mental hospital for treatment.

In September of 2005, Cano was convicted of two counts of second degree murder for the killing of his girlfriend and her unborn child. He was sentenced to serve two concurrent terms of seventeen years-to-life in state prison.

During his time in custody, Cano has violated prison rules for fighting with other inmates in 2007, 2010 and 2011. A prison psychologist who examined Cano found that he still represents a moderate risk for violence if released into the community and lacks insight as to what causes his violent outbursts.

Prosecutor Mangar argued against Cano's release on parole due to the vicious and disturbing nature of the crime. In addition, his continued violent behavior, even in the structured environment of state prison, shows that he still exhibits violent and irrational thought processes.

A number of the victims' surviving family members appeared at the hearing and also asked the Board to deny Cano's release on Parole.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Commissioners found that Cano still poses a risk to public safety and denied him parole for another 7 years. However, due to recent changes in the law, Cano may be able to request his parole hearing be advanced to an earlier date.

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