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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 6, 2019
Re: Chek Ngoun
Convicted Killer Parole Denied

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Chek Ngoun, age 47, of Modesto, was denied parole during a March 5, 2019, hearing before the Board of Parole Hearings held inside the California Institute For Men state prison in Chino, California. Deputy District Attorney John Goold attended on behalf of the People.

On August 17, 1996, Ngoun and other members of the Modesto Hit Squad, a local group affiliated with the Crips criminal street gang, went to a party at the Mountain View Grange Hall on Crows Landing. A fight broke out and Ngoun shot and killed 18-year-old Kevin Frankie Martinez.

The following month, on September 7, 1996, Ngoun and other members of the Modesto Hit Squad got into a fight with several other subjects at a home on Longfellow Avenue in Modesto. Ngoun went home, retrieved a gun and returned to the address where he shot and wounded three different victims.

Ngoun was convicted of murder with a gun use and gang enhancement in the first case and convicted of three counts of attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon along with use of a weapon and infliction of great bodily injury enhancements in the second case. He was sentenced to serve a lengthy determinate term plus life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Since being incarcerated, Ngoun has committed several serious rules violations including battery and a coordinated attack on another inmate with his fellow gang members. During the hearing, Ngoun admitted joining an Asian prison gang but claimed he had left the group within the last ten years. He also admitted lying about having mental health symptoms for his own benefit.

Prosecutor Goold argued against Ngoun's release based upon his violent history while incarcerated, his lack of solid parole plans, having no relapse prevention plan to avoid the gang lifestyle if released, never having "debriefed" prison officials on his gang knowledge and participation, and having a lack of any real insight into the causes of his criminality.

A psychologist's report stated that Ngoun posed a moderate risk for future violence if released into the community and that he needed to display a longer period of prosocial behaviors in order to conclude that his antisocial character aspects have fully resolved. After deliberations, the panel denied parole for three more years.

This was Ngoun's first parole hearing. As a youthful offender at the time of the murder, he may be able to petition the Board of Parole Hearings for an earlier hearing in as little as 18 months.

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