



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 26, 2021
Re: Sokhean Keo
Gang member denied parole

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Sokhean Keo, age 43, of Modesto, California was found unsuitable for parole during a parole hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at California City Correctional Facility in San Bernardino County. Deputy District Attorney Sara Sousa appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On March 27, 1998 at approximately 9:00 p.m., Modesto Police officers were dispatched to the 2000 block of River Pine Court for a reported shooting. Upon arrival, they located a homeowner who told them that several individuals had forcibly tried to break into his home. One suspect, Keo, was armed with a shotgun and forced his way into the home through a kitchen window.

The homeowner, who had armed himself with a firearm, shot at Keo, striking him. Keo then fled the residence through the same kitchen window and fired at the homeowner as he was fleeing.

On February 19, 1999 Keo was convicted by a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury of first-degree robbery of an occupied home, attempted first degree robbery of an occupied home, first degree burglary, assault with a firearm, discharge of a firearm in an inhabited dwelling and being an active member of the "Crazy Mob Family" criminal street gang. Enhancements for personally using a firearm, discharge of a firearm and being an active gang member were also found true. Upon his conviction, Keo was sentenced to serve 32 years in state prison.

During the parole hearing, prosecutor Sousa argued for continued confinement and a seven-year denial of parole based on Keo's lack of preparation for the hearing, his failure to show any remorse for his actions while testifying before the board, his prison rule violations showing a continued criminal mindset and lack of rehabilitative programming. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed with denying Keo's release, but only for five years.

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Keo was 20 years old at the time of his crimes which makes him a “Youthful Offender” under the law. Despite that fact, the Board determined Keo still posed an unreasonable risk to society if he were to be released for the reasons stated by Ms. Sousa as well as the fact that Keo participated in a prison riot in 2009 and had six serious rules violations over the past two years. The Board recommended Keo re-take anger management classes and have adequate parole plans for future hearings.

This was Keo’s initial parole hearing.

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