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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: 6/20/08

Re: People v. Raul Arauza, Jr., #1217050

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**Modesto, California** – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Raul Arauza, Jr., age 20, of Oakdale, was convicted after a jury trial on 6/19/08. Deputy District Attorney Wendell Emerson prosecuted the case. The case was investigated by Officer Michael Walsh of the Oakdale Police Department.

The case arose out of events which occurred on October 7, 2006 in the city of Oakdale. On that night, Norteno gang members and associates were having a party at a residence in honor of a fellow Norteno gang member who had been killed by rival Sureno gang members.

During the party, rival Sureno gang members confronted the Norteno gang members and their associates who were gathered outside of the residence during the party. A fight ensued between several members of both gangs. During the fighting, Raul Arauza, Jr., an active member of the Sureno street gang, pulled a knife and viciously stabbed the victim 4 times. The victim suffered extensive injuries as a result of the stabbing.

Raul Arauza, Jr. was found guilty of attempted murder and being an active gang member. Further the jury found true the criminal enhancements that the attempted murder was done for the benefit and promotion of the Sureno criminal street gang, that the crime was premeditated, that the defendant used a deadly weapon during the crime and that the defendant inflicted great bodily injury on the victim.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 17, 2008 in front of the Honorable Judge Whiteside. The defendant faces up to a 29 year to life sentence.

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