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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: 10-24-08
Re: Graciela Elvira Cervantes sentenced to a
life term for torture charges

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Graciela Cervantes, age 27, of Modesto, was sentenced to a Life term in prison today for the Torture of a 15 year old girl in June of 2007. Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees prosecuted the case for the People.

In June of 2006, Cervantes contacted a 15 year old juvenile runaway who had previously taken Cervantes's truck without her permission. Bent on revenge, Cervantes kept the juvenile in her apartment for two nights during which time she beat her, cut her long hair to her scalp, burned her with cigarettes, cut the web of her hand with scissors, and made her lick her own blood from the floor. Several other members of the household, who were present at the time, testified at the preliminary hearing which spanned three days over two months' time. During the second day, Cervantes and her boyfriend put the victim into their car and began to transport her to Stockton where they told her she would be prostituted out for money. Before long, the driver pulled over near Gallo Glass and the victim made a run for safety, making it to the guard shack, where the Security personnel contacted law enforcement. Cervantes and her driver fled the scene.

Cervantes also pled to a separate robbery which occurred in September of 2006. In that case, Cervantes held a knife to the victim's neck and demanded her bank card and PIN. Both charges are serious and violent felonies which require the defendant to serve 85% of her time in prison. Cervantes will not be eligible for a parole hearing for 10 years, possibly never.

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