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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: June 25, 2008
Re: Convicted murderer Jose Ulisses Duran
sentenced to life term

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jose Ulisses Duran, age 24, of Newman, was sentenced on June 20th, 2008 by Judge Loretta Begen to a term of 25 yrs to life in prison for the December 1st 2004 murder of eleven-year-old Doris Castro. Deputy District Attorneys Douglas Raynaud and Jared Carrillo who prosecuted the case appeared at the sentencing hearing. Defendant Duran was convicted of 1st degree murder by a jury on November 27th, 2006. A one and a half year delay between conviction and sentencing is attributed to numerous post-trial motions filed by the defense on behalf of Mr. Duran.

The case arose out of events which occurred on December 1st 2004 in the city of Newman when Doris disappeared from her family home in the evening hours. A neighborhood search overnight turned into a massive effort by law enforcement to find the missing 6th grader. Her lifeless body was found in a canal the following afternoon by volunteer searchers. Jose Ulisses Duran, who was dating Doris's older sister, was the last person known to have seen her alive. Detectives from the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department were able to gain a confession from Duran after linking him to the murder with physical evidence and writings from Doris's school book.

Under California sentencing law, Mr. Duran won't be eligible for his first parole hearing unless and until he serves a full 25-year term. Stated lead prosecutor Douglas Raynaud, "It took a long time but I'm glad that we finally got some justice for Doris and her family. I'd be surprised if Mr. Duran ever makes parole."

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