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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: December 22, 2008  
Re: Ramon Guardado – Convicted of  
First Degree Murder and Robbery

**For More Information Contact:**

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Modesto, California- Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Ramon Guardado, 24, of Modesto, was convicted of Murder in the First Degree and Robbery in the stabbing death of Joseph Badal, 47, of Turlock, on May 10, 2006. The jury, which deliberated for a little over one day after the two-week trial, also found that Guardado had personally used a knife in the attack.

The evidence in the trial showed that Badal had met Guardado and his companion for the first time only minutes before in the parking lot of a bar on Crowslanding Road. Guardado and the companion rode with Badal to a remote neighborhood off of Hatch Road and Crowslanding Road. Guardado pulled a steak knife from his pocket, held it to Badal's neck and a struggle followed, during which Badal was fatally stabbed in the right chest. Badal, who was unarmed, managed to get out of his car but slumped to the ground shortly thereafter, mortally wounded. After the stabbing, Guardado and the companion took Badal's car and fled the scene.

The presiding trial judge was the Honorable Scott Steffen. The prosecutor was Chief Deputy District Attorney Jerry Begen.

Sentencing has been scheduled for January 30, 2009, in Department 9 before the Honorable Scott Steffen who presided over the jury trial. Guardado faces life without the possibility of parole.

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