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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: July 19, 2010  
Re: Gang Members Sentenced

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Raymond Vance, age 18, Jorge Espindola, age 22, Angel Hernandez, age 20, Eddie Huesca, age 19, Juan Zapat, age 18, all of Turlock, were convicted on July 16<sup>th</sup> as follows: Vance and Espindola -- Discharging a Firearm at an Inhabited Dwelling; Hernandez, Huesca and Zapata -- Being Gang Members with a Loaded Gun. Deputy District Attorney Shawn D. Bessey prosecuted the case for the People.

On May 3rd, 2010, the defendants, known Norteno gang members, drove by a house of a suspected rival gang member in the city of Turlock. As a white Chevy Blazer driven by Espindola cruised past a house on Lambert Way, Vance, a passenger, fired several rounds from a revolver in the direction of the occupied home. No one was hit or injured. Citizens from the neighborhood called in and reported that shots were fired from a white Chevy Blazer. A short time later, Turlock Police Department officers conducted a high risk traffic stop on the white Blazer. It was occupied by Espindola, who was the driver, and passengers Vance, Hernandez, Zapata and Husca. Also found in the car was a loaded .22 caliber handgun. The Turlock police officers established that all occupants of the vehicle had ties to the Norteno criminal street gang.

Upon entry of their pleas, the Honorable Timothy Salter sentenced Vance to 5 years in state prison; Espindola received probation and was sentenced to 365 days in the county jail; Hernandez, Zapata and Huesca received probation and were sentenced to 145 days in the county jail.

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