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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: April 5, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Albert Gonzalez  
Auto Thief Sentenced to  
7 Years, 4 Months Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Albert Gonzalez, age 49, of Patterson, was convicted on April 5, 2010 of possession of methamphetamine and auto theft. Gonzalez also admitted a prior conviction for robbery, a “strike” under California’s “Three Strikes” law, from November 1984. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On October 12, 2009 at around 10:00 p.m. in the area of Sheridan Street and Paradise Road in Modesto, Gonzalez ran a stop sign while driving a vehicle. After performing a routine traffic stop, the officer discovered that Gonzalez had a small cellophane baggie in his right front pants pocket that contained methamphetamine. After being arrested, Gonzalez posted bail and was released from jail.

On February 25, 2010 at around noon in the area of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and H Street in Modesto, Gonzalez was observed driving a 1994 white Chevy Silverado by the registered owner who had reported it stolen on February 24, 2010 out of a restaurant in Ceres. The owner immediately dialed 911 and an officer was dispatched to the area. When the officer tried to perform a traffic stop, Gonzalez stopped the truck and ran, but was caught a short distance away. Gonzalez claimed that he was driving the truck to pick up some methamphetamine from a friend at a trailer park on 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Ricardo Cordova sentenced Gonzalez to seven years and four months in state prison .

Stanislaus County residents can report suspected vehicle theft activity to their local law enforcement agency or contact the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (StanCATT) at: (209) 545-7316.

**IF YOU OBSERVE A THEFT IN PROGRESS, DIAL 911**

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