



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: July 11, 2023  
Re: Sengaloun Khattiyavong  
Murder and attempted murder inmate denied parole

### For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Sengaloun Khattiyavong, age 42, formerly of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole during a June 9, 2023, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Valley State Prison. Deputy District Attorney Amy Elliott Neumann appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People and argued against Khattiyavong’s release.

On February 21, 1999, Khattiyavong, a member of the criminal street gang “Asian Boyz,” went with two other gang members to a crowded party of over 50 people in Modesto. As they were leaving, Khattiyavong and his two friends inexplicably pulled out concealed firearms and started shooting over 50 rounds into the crowd, killing a 15-year-old and wounding three other adults.

A Stanislaus County Superior Court jury convicted Khattiyavong of premeditated first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder, four counts of attempted murder and participation in a criminal street gang. He was sentenced to serve a term of 155 years to life in state prison.

Since Khattiyavong was 18 years old at the time of the crime he is considered a “youthful offender” under relatively recent changes in the law, allowing him to have his parole date advanced and requiring the Board to give substantial weight and consideration to various “youth factors.”

Prosecutor Neumann urged the Board to deny Khattiyavong’s release on parole noting his recent rule violation in 2021 for possessing a cell phone in prison. Neumann highlighted Khattiyavong’s obvious need for more programming to address his persistent criminal thinking, his failure to complete programs relating to substance abuse issues and the callous disregard for human life he exhibited during in the shooting itself.

After deliberations, the Board determined that while Khattiyavong qualified for youthful offender considerations, he still posed a current unreasonable risk to public safety if released. The Board noted that Khattiyavong’s current behavior and disciplinary problems indicated persistent criminal thinking and lack of offender change. The Board recommended that Khattiyavong remain discipline free and work on internalizing what he learned from self-help programming. The Board then denied parole for a period of three years.

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This was Khattiyavong's first parole hearing. He will be eligible for another hearing in three years although he may petition the Board to advance that date if he can demonstrate a change in his circumstances justifying it.

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