



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County
832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354
Mailing address: POB 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney
Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney
Chief Deputy District Attorneys
Jerry Begen
Steve Casey
John Goold
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: February 6th, 2007
Re: Bue sentencing hearing

For More Information Contact:

John Goold, Chief Deputy District Attorney
Phone: (209) 525-5550

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Tuesday February 6th, 2007

STANISLAUS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY BIRGIT FLADAGER ANNOUNCED TODAY that defendant Bobby Akio Bue, age 21, of Olivehurst, was sentenced on Friday February 2nd, 2007 to eleven years and 8 months in state prison after pleading no contest on December 5th, 2006 during his preliminary hearing before Stanislaus County Superior Court Judge Ricardo Cordova. Deputy District Attorney Michael Houston prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On May 1st, 2004, Bue and others were at a residence in Modesto when 3 cars drove by. Bue opened fire on the vehicles with an SKS assault rifle, killing Sophan Sokahn, 23, Gary Xayarath, 20, and injuring 2 others. After the shooting, Bue was charged with 2 counts of murder with special circumstances, 2 counts of attempted murder, and one count of a being part of a criminal street gang plus several weapons enhancements.

During a six-day preliminary hearing, one of the prosecution's main witnesses testified she had married Bue while he was in the Stanislaus County jail. She then denied her earlier statement to police that Bue told her about his involvement in the shootings. Her marriage to the defendant made the other main prosecution witness the defendant's brother-in-law. Additional issues regarding the remaining evidence resulted in a plea bargain being reached between the prosecution, defense and the court. Bue pleaded no contest on December 6th, 2006 to two counts of voluntary manslaughter, being a participant in a criminal street gang, and admitted he used an assault rifle.

Judge Ricardo Cordova sentenced Bue to the agreed disposition of eleven years and eight months in state prison. He will be eligible for parole after serving at least 85% of his sentence in custody.

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