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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: September 30, 2009  
Re: Robert Anthony Lopez –Murderer  
sentenced

**For More Information Contact:**

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Robert Anthony Lopez, age 21, of Modesto, was sentenced on September 29, 2009 to 48 years-to-life. This follows a conviction by jury trial for Murder and Assault charges back in July 2007. Deputy District Attorney Thomas Brennan prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004 in the city of Modesto. Lopez and several other Norteno gang members confronted four individuals at a food stand near the corner of Hatch Rd and Crows Landing Rd. in south Modesto. They suspected these subjects of being rival Sureno gang members. A fight ensued and Lopez pulled a gun and shot the Daniel Morales, who was taken to Doctor's Medical Center where he died of multiple gunshot wounds. During this same confrontation, Lopez also assaulted Jesus Elizarraz and Gonzalo Villanueva with a chain. Investigators determined that Lopez was an active participant in the Norteno street gang and this crime was done for the benefit of the Nortenos.

At the time of the offense, Lopez was 16 years old but was tried as an adult. In 2007, a jury convicted Lopez of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder with use of a gun and assault with a deadly weapon for the benefit of a criminal street gang as well as being an active participant in a criminal street gang. After a lengthy post conviction process and a variety of new trial motions, Lopez was sentenced by the Honorable Judge Nancy Ashley to serve a prison commitment of 40 years to life with an additional 8 years for the second assault. Mr. Lopez is now 21 years old.

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