



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: February 16, 2018  
Re: Luiz Miguel Ortega  
Murder Sentencing

### For More Information Contact:

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Luiz Miguel Ortega, age 34, of Modesto, has been sentenced to life in prison after being convicted of second degree murder. Deputy District Attorney Tony Colacito prosecuted the case for the People.

On August 16, 2015, Ortega ran a stop sign on Haddon Avenue in Modesto at a high rate of speed, killing 19-year-old Nanar Zaia. Ortega's blood alcohol level at the time was over twice the legal limit and showed evidence of methamphetamine and marijuana use. Ortega's two previous DUI-related convictions made him eligible for prosecution on murder charges. In January of this year, he was convicted of second degree murder after a two-week jury trial.

On Thursday, February 15, 2018, during a sentencing hearing, Judge Scott Steffen sentenced Ortega to a total term of 20 years to life in state prison.

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