



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County

832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354

Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Phone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney
Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District
Attorneys
Jerry Begen
Steve Casey
Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: December 12, 2008

Assistant District Attorney

Re: People v. Francisco Martinez

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Held to Answer for 3 Counts of Murder

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced that Francisco Trinidad Martinez, 27, of Modesto was held to answer at a preliminary hearing for three counts of murder as well as other charges related to a December 9, 2007 head-on collision on Claribel Road. The Honorable Ricardo Cordova presided over the hearing.

Martinez was held to answer for three counts of murder, three counts of fleeing police causing death, three counts of gross vehicular manslaughter while under the influence of methamphetamine, one count of auto theft, one count of receiving a stolen vehicle, and one count of driving with a suspended license. Martinez's actions are alleged to have resulted in the deaths of Stephen Lee Jackson and Heather Miller who were in the vehicle Martinez collided with as well as Brandon Ellis who is alleged to have been a passenger of Martinez.

Martinez is also charged with two prior convictions resulting in separate prison terms.

The next court hearing is scheduled for January 12, 2009.