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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 8, 2010
Re: Isidoro Mata
Gang Member Convicted

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Isidoro Mata, age 20, of Modesto, was convicted after a one and a half-week jury trial of Premeditated Murder, Attempted Murder, Assault with a Firearm, Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Discharging a Firearm from a Motor Vehicle, and Participation in a Street Gang. Deputy District Attorney Brad Nix prosecuted the case for the People.

On Saturday, June 10, 2006 around 5:50 p.m., Angel Cabanillas, his brother Pedro Cabanillas, and defendant Isidoro Mata, went driving through south Modesto in a gang area claimed by the DSSN or Deep Southside Nortenos. This is the same area where a gang injunction is now in effect. Angel Cabanillas, his brother, and Mata are all Surenos and belong to the set known as SST or Southside Trece. They were in a 1993 two-door teal Honda Accord which belonged to Mata's father and carried with them a .22 caliber rifle. Cabanillas was the right front passenger, Mata drove, and Pedro Cabanillas was in the back seat.

Robert Alcazar was hosting his own birthday party at 1300 Almaden, Modesto. There were several children (10 to 15) and adults (10 to 20 or more) at his home. Most were outside in the front yard where Mr. Alcazar had set up a rented inflatable jumping house, basketball stand, picnic table, and pop up shade cover. Mr. Alcazar also had food and drinks set up in his garage and had left the garage door open so that guests could come and go through it. None of the guests were gang members. One of the guests was a 49-er fan and was wearing a red Joe Montana jersey. He and his brother, the murder victim, were visiting from Contra Costa County.

The defendants drove by 1300 Almaden three to four times--first flashing gang signs and the second, third and fourth times, they fired shots into the crowd, the fourth time killing Manual Rayas. The defendants then drove to 1762 Spokane, Modesto, about 1.3 miles away, and yelled "We're Scappas" at Andres Esparza. They then shot Andres Esparza in the leg with a rifle coming out of the right front passenger window. Although he denied gang membership, Andres Esparza was identified as a member of the DSSN or Deep Southside Norteno set.

The shooter, Angel Cabanillas was convicted of murder and other crimes arising from this case last March. The third defendant pled pursuant to a plea agreement and will be sentenced later this month.

Sentencing for Mata is scheduled for April 23, 2010 when the Honorable Timothy Salter Mata will pronounce judgment. Mata faces in excess of 150 years-to-life in state prison.

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