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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 1, 2022
Re: Chek Ngoun
Convicted Killer Granted Parole

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Modesto, California- Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Chek Ngoun, age 50, of Modesto was granted parole during a June 16, 2022 hearing before the Board of Parole Hearings held inside the California Institute for Men state prison in Chino, California. Deputy District Tracy Griffin attended the hearing on behalf of the People.

On August 17, 1996, Ngoun and other members of the Modesto Hit Squad, a local group affiliated with the Crips criminal street gang, went to a party at the Mountain View Grange Hall on Crows Landing Road. A fight broke out between rival gang members and Ngoun shot and killed 18-year-old Kevin Frankie Martinez.

The following month, on September 7, 1996, Ngoun and other members of the Modesto Hit Squad got into a fight with several other subjects at a home on Longfellow Avenue in Modesto. Ngoun went home, retrieved a gun and returned to the address where he shot and wounded three separate victims.

Ngoun was convicted of murder with gun use and gang enhancements in the first case and convicted of three counts of attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon with enhancements for use of a weapon and infliction of great bodily injury in the second case. He was sentenced to serve 47 years to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Since being incarcerated, Ngoun has committed several serious rules violations including battery and participating in a coordinated attack on another inmate with his fellow gang members.

At the hearing on June 16th, prosecutor Griffin argued against Ngoun's release based upon his violent history while incarcerated and the risk he poses to public safety if released. A recent psychologist report opined that Ngoun was a low risk for future violence if released into the community.

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After deliberations, the Board granted Ngoun's release on parole. The Board decided that since Ngoun qualified as a "Youthful Offender" they were required to give great weight to the inmate's young age and gullibility to peer pressure when he committed the killing and shootings. They also found that Ngoun's progress in avoiding serious rules violations since 2009 and his development of parole plans weighed in favor of his release on parole.

This was Ngoun's third parole hearing. He was previously denied parole in 2019 and 2020.

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