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**STEVEN MAGANA, TIMOTHY CORONADO RECEIVE TWO
CONSECUTIVE LIFE SENTENCES IN GANG SHOOTING**

Steven Magana (DOB: 9-23-83) and Timothy Coronado (DOB: 8-11-87) were sentenced to two consecutive life sentences today by the Honorable Judge John Kirihara of Merced Superior Court for the attempted murder of Ruben Coronado (DOB: 7-16-55) that occurred on March 9, 2009, at Westside Boulevard in Livingston, California. A jury found the defendants guilty of all charges after a five day trial on September 15, 2009.

The jury also found true the enhancements that the defendants attempted to murder Ruben Coronado for the benefit of the Livas Norteno street gang centered in Livingston; and that each of the defendants fired a weapon during the attempted murder. In addition, the jury found that the defendant Steven Magana was in possession of an illegal shotgun and semi-automatic handgun at the time of his arrest.

Judge Kirihara rejected the defendant's plea for leniency and sentenced both defendants to 15-years-to-life for attempted premeditated murder for the benefit of a criminal street gang; and to a consecutive 25-years-to-life sentence for personal use of a firearm. In the end, Magana was sentenced to 43 years, 8 months to life in prison and Coronado was sentenced to 40 years, 8 months to life in prison.

Judge Kirihara also rejected the defendants request to continue sentencing to a later date so that they could spend Thanksgiving and Christmas at the Merced County Jail rather than at the Department of Corrections.

Evidence at trial established that Steven Magana, Timothy Coronado, and a third juvenile defendant decided to kill Rudy Coronado because they believed he was trying to drop out of the Livas Norteno street gang. Ruben Coronado confronted the defendants earlier on March 9, 2009, at Steven Magana's house because of the threats against him. A fist fight ensued where Magana and Coronado were beaten by Rudy Coronado. Rudy Coronado is Timothy Coronado's cousin.

Magana, Coronado, and the juvenile defendant then decided to go to where Rudy Coronado was believed to be living on the evening of March 9, 2009, to murder him. The defendants went armed to the home of Ruben Coronado (Rudy Coronado's father and uncle to Timothy Coronado) and knocked on the door of his mobile home on Westfield Boulevard demanding that Rudy come out.

Instead, Rudy's father, Ruben Coronado opened the door and the defendants immediately began firing shots at Ruben. Ruben Coronado suffered multiple gun shots to the face, abdomen, and torso but survived the shooting after being mediflighted to Modesto for emergency medical treatment.

Ruben Coronado initially refused to cooperate with the police investigation because he feared his family might be harmed by the Livas gang. However, a second attempt was made in May of 2009, to murder Rudy Coronado when someone shot into his home. In that incident Rudy's three year old stepdaughter suffered two gun shot wounds and Rudy suffered a single gun shot wound. Ruben Coronado testified at trial that he decided to cooperate with law enforcement after the second shooting because he feared for the lives of his family.

The defendants claimed during the trial that it was too dark for Ruben Coronado to see who shot him. However, Christopher De Vries, an astronomy professor at Stanislaus State testified that there was a full moon that night and weather conditions were clear.

Prosecuting Deputy District Attorney David Sandhaus said after trial, "We won this trial because we had great police work by the Merced County Sheriff and Livingston Police gang officers; and because we had a sophisticated jury that recognized that this was not just a random act of violence but was a gang crime."

Sandhaus also said, "I am gratified that Judge Kiriara recognized the unacceptable threat that gang violence poses to innocent civilians in Merced and sentenced the defendants to the maximum time allowed by law."