

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

GANG MEMBER SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR PARTICIPATION IN GANG RELATED MURDER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced that Jose Guadalupe Diaz (a.k.a. Sucio or Dirty), a 19-year-old Sureno gang member from Salinas, was sentenced today by Judge Pamela Butler to serve 25 years-to-life in prison for his participation in the January 13, 2015 murder of a 17-year-old victim.

Diaz drove his family's van past the victim's home on East Market Street in Salinas with other Sureno gang members. The victim, several younger friends and younger relatives were in or around the garage with the door partly open listening to music. Diaz's passenger, Jesus Eloy Gutierrez (a.k.a Vicious) fired into the garage and hit the victim, killing him instantly, and Diaz drove away from the scene.

Diaz and Gutierrez were arrested a week later after Salinas Police Department Detectives Gabe Gonzalez and Byron Gansen followed up on tips from concerned citizens that led them to Diaz's van and then to Diaz and Ramirez. These and other detectives from the Salinas Police Department were later assisted by District Attorney Investigators Christi Gunter and Bill Mixer.

Diaz pled guilty to first degree murder with a gang enhancement several weeks before his trial was set to commence. In addition to his life sentence he was ordered to pay restitution to the family of the victim.

Gutierrez will be sentenced by Judge Butler on February 24, 2016.