

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE FOR MURDERING THREE AND INJURING FOUR OTHERS AT SALINAS TAQUERIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Giovanni Pacheco, age 24, was sentenced to three terms of life in prison without the possibility of parole, plus 75 years to life for using a firearm to commit three murders, plus an additional 35 years and 8 months in prison for the shooting of four others. The case was presided over by Monterey Superior Court Judge Julie R. Culver.

On August 5, 2013, Pacheco and his family were dining at Taco's Choice in Salinas, eating and drinking alcohol. At some point that evening, Pacheco exited the restaurant and engaged in a verbal argument with other patrons outside of the restaurant over two women that were part of Pacheco's party. As the verbal argument became louder, several patrons from Taco's Choice exited the restaurant. Suddenly, Pacheco brandished a .45 caliber firearm and shot three men he was arguing with, and four others that were in the crowd. The three men Pacheco murdered were Edgar Salinas, age 28, Victor Ortiz, age 22, and Alejandro Hernandez, age 25. Pacheco was arrested the next day.

Pacheco's sentence of life without the possibility of parole means that he will never be released from prison.

The case was investigated by Salinas Police Officers Dale Fors and Rudy Roman, and District Attorney Investigator Martin Sanchez.

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