

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **SALINAS MAN SENTENCED IN MONTEREY BEACH MURDER**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 18, 2016**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that 24-year-old Victor Ramos, a known Sureno Criminal Street Gang member, was sentenced for the March 2015 slaying of Abraham Lizama on Del Monte Beach in Monterey, CA.

On March 14, 2015 Abraham Lizama, a father of young children from Soledad, was walking his puppy on the beach in Monterey. Victor Ramos heard Abraham approaching and thought that he sounded like a rival Norteno. Ramos left his bonfire, approached Abraham, and asked Abraham where he was from. When Abraham responded that he was from Soledad, Victor Ramos fired multiple shots, striking both Abraham and his puppy. Abraham died as a result of those gunshot wounds.

Ramos and his friends fled Monterey and headed back home to Salinas. As they were leaving the beach area a Monterey police officer, who had heard the shots, took down the license plate number of the vehicle in which Ramos was fleeing. Ramos was caught shortly thereafter and witnesses placed him as the sole shooter.

On August 18, 2016, Mr. Lizama's family gathered in the courtroom during the sentencing hearing, and many of them addressed the court. His father clutched a photograph of Mr. Lizama with his two young children, taken shortly before he was gunned down by Ramos. Mr. Lizama's sisters spoke about the senselessness of Ramos' crime, and how deeply it affected the victim's family. Ramos was sentenced by Monterey Superior Court Judge Julie Culver to a total term of 32 years and 8 months to state prison.

The murder of Mr. Lizama was investigated by the Peninsula Regional Violence and Narcotics Taskforce, specifically Monterey Officer Bryan Kruse, as well as District Attorney Investigator Jorge Gutierrez.