

**\* NEWS RELEASE \***

**DEFENDANT SENTENCED TO  
25 YEARS TO LIFE FOR KILLING  
20 YEAR OLD GIRLFRIEND**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 26, 2016**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that in the case of People v. Byron Sumagang, Judge Carrie A. Panetta sentenced the 24-year-old Salinas resident to 25 years-to-life for the first degree murder of his girlfriend, 20 year old, Carole Anne Sangco. On August 26, 2016, a jury rendered a guilty verdict of premeditated and deliberate murder after a two week trial.

A deputy sheriff came upon the defendant's car on the edge of the road about noon on November 30, 2014. The deputy saw the defendant sitting in the back seat with the pulseless victim lying in his lap.

The jury relied on testimony from the Monterey County Forensic Pathologist, Dr. Venus Azar who concluded the victim died of asphyxia as a result of a combination of strangulation and smothering.

The victim's sister in her address to the court stated the family wished they had seen the signs that Carole was in a toxic and violent relationship and could have saved her from the person who ultimately took not only her life but her future.

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