

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

PENINSULA GANG MEMBERS RECEIVE LIFE SENTENCES FOR MURDERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Juan Hernandez Delgado, a.k.a, Joker, age 29, of Seaside, and Francisco Chacala, age 21, of Prunedale, were both sentenced to life terms for their roles in two gang related murders they committed in July of 2013. Mr. Hernandez Delgado and Mr. Chacala were involved in “gang crews” which patrolled the streets of Seaside, hunting for potential targets who they believed were in some fashion connected to the rival Norteno gang. On July 11, 2013, they gunned down 21 year old Erick Curiel, who had spent the evening with his girlfriend and was walking down Elm Street to visit his cousin. On July 30, 2013 they shot and killed 20 year old Hugo Ricalde who had just taken a taxi home from work. Neither victim was an active gang member at the time of their death.

Mr. Chacala also participated in two other shootings, one where a man was shot at a medical clinic in Marina on August 23, 2012 and another where a man and a woman were shot in an apartment parking lot off of San Pablo Avenue in Seaside on March 30, 2013.

These shootings were part of a violent rampage by the Sureno gang on the Monterey Peninsula in 2012 and 2013, spurred on by the shooting death of one of their associates in a gun battle with the rival Norteno gang. Most of the participants in these crimes are now in custody serving lengthy sentences.

Mr. Hernandez Delgado was convicted after a jury trial, and Mr. Chacala pled guilty to his crimes a week before his jury trial was scheduled to begin. Today Judge Russell Scott sentenced Mr. Hernandez Delgado to serve 100 years to life in prison and Mr. Chacala was sentenced to serve 50 years to life. Mr. Hernandez Delgado will not be eligible for a parole hearing until he serves his 100 year sentence. Because Mr. Chacala was aged 16 and 17 at the time of his crimes, he will be eligible to have a parole hearing after he has served 25 years of his sentence, at which time the Youthful Offender Parole Board will determine whether Mr. Chacala merits a release on parole or whether he should remain in prison.

Family members of both murder victims addressed the court at sentencing and expressed the depth of their loss.

The cases were investigated by Detective Gabe Anderson of the Seaside Police Department, Investigator Rick Gamble of PRVNT (the Peninsula Regional Violence and Narcotics Team) and Investigator John Coletti of the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office, among many other officers and investigators who helped with various aspects of the investigation and prosecution of the cases.