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PRESS RELEASE

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CHINATOWN RESIDENT SENTENCED TO MAXIMUM PRISON TERM OF 12 YEARS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

People v Regina Budiao; 18CR006114

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that Judge Andrew Liu sentenced Regina Budiao, 44, of Salinas, to 12 years in State Prison. This was the maximum penalty authorized under the law. Liu also ordered Budiao to register as a sexual offender for the rest of her life.

Earlier this year, Budiao was found guilty of the crime of human trafficking during a jury trial. The events in this case took place in March of 2018. As a sixteen-year-old runaway, the victim began living in Budiao's tent in a portion of Salinas known as "Chinatown." The victim was given drugs and alcohol and was encouraged to earn money to support her drug habit. While living in the tent, Budiao persuaded the victim to engage in a commercial sex act.

Salinas Police Department Detective Byron Gansen investigated this case, and District Attorney Investigator Terri Edwards conducted follow-up investigation. Monterey County District Attorney Comfort Dog, "Odie" and Victim Advocates Alma Sanchez and Kristin Gebin aided the victim and her mother throughout the investigation and trial.