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PRESS RELEASE

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C.D.C.R. INMATE SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR MURDER OF HIS CELLMATE

People v Brandon Keen; SS152058A

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that on February 22, 2019, Brandon Keen, age 34, was sentenced to 141 years-to-life in prison. On January 16, 2019, Keen was found guilty by a jury for murdering his cellmate and assault with a deadly weapon by an inmate.

Keen was sentenced pursuant to California's Three-Strikes laws as he has previous convictions for arson, assault with a deadly weapon and mayhem. Pursuant to law Keen was sentenced to three life sentences for the crimes he was convicted, resulting in 141 years-to-life. As Judge Timothy P. Roberts handed down the sentence Keen yelled out in open court, and in front of the victim's family members, that he had "No regrets" that he "Loves it" and "Wants more of it".

On October 4, 2013, Keen, while serving a 25 year prison sentence at Salinas Valley State Prison for mayhem, was found in his cell unharmed after he alerted correctional officers that his cell mate was "down". The victim, Dimitris Kalatzakis, age 31, was found lying face up in a large pool of his own blood and the cell walls were covered in blood spatter. He was pronounced deceased on scene. An autopsy revealed that Kalatzakis had suffered six stab wounds by an inmate manufactured weapon, had been beaten so badly that there was blunt force injury with broken bones throughout his face and that he had ultimately been strangled to death by a ligature. Kalatzakis had an anticipated release date of October 15, 2015.

The jury also found that on August 31, 2016, Inmate Keen was fighting with another inmate, Mathew Jennings, age 46, in the day yard area of Salinas Valley State Prison when correctional officers deployed O.C. gas to stop the fight. Inmate Jennings fell to the ground and curled into a fetal position with his back to Inmate Keen. Inmate Keen with an inmate manufactured weapon, consisting of a toothbrush with two razor blades affixed to the handle, proceeded to get on top of Inmate Jennings and slashed his face and neck.