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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Gomez Rivera Found Guilty of Murdering Man After Bar Fight
People v. Jose Gomez Rivera: Kern County Superior Court Case BF195883A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant homicide trial verdict today. On April 9, 2024, a Kern County jury found Jose Gomez Rivera, age 39, guilty of the second-degree murder of Rosalino Soto, with an enhancement for use of a firearm. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Larry L. Fields.

On the night of June 30, 2023, Soto was lured outside the Descanso Bar in Lamont to fight a man who was with Gomez Rivera. When Gomez Rivera didn't like how the fistfight was going, he walked up to Soto with a .38 caliber handgun and shot him at close range. Soto was transported to Kern Medical and was pronounced deceased upon arrival. Gomez Rivera fled the scene and discarded the weapon. He was arrested 5 weeks later after extensive investigation by Kern County Sheriff homicide detectives.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating, "The dangerous mix of alcohol and firearms often lead to deadly consequences. Horrendous acts of violence with firearms upon an unarmed victim outside a public establishment demand the fullest prosecution under the law."

Sentencing is scheduled for April 7, 2024, in Department 3 on the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge John Oglesby. Gomez Rivera faces a sentence of up to 15 years to life in prison for the murder, plus 25 to life for use of a firearm to commit the killing.

Jose Gomez Rivera:

