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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of Parole Denies Release to Convicted Murderer Leobardo Aldana at 14th Hearing
CDCR #C72590; Court Case #SC024014A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted murderer Leobardo Aldana. On April 30, 2025, BPH found that Aldana continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On July 19, 1981, Aldana attended a Chirriada (Mexican Rodeo) on White Lane in Bakersfield. At approximately 7:30pm, 100-150 people were present. A dance was occurring when a physical fight broke out on or around the dance area over a female. The male victim, Juan Martin, was assaulted by individual(s) present. After being repeatedly punched, the victim fell to the ground. As he attempted to get up, Aldana stabbed the victim in the abdomen and shot him in the neck.

After Aldana stabbed and shot the victim, he and another male attempted to flee the area. Aldana and his male companion were pursued by the victim's two brothers. Witnesses heard multiple gunshots. One of the victim's brothers, Manuel Martin, was shot in the forehead between the eyes and died. The other brother was shot in the chest and leg. He was transported to the hospital and survived. Aldana admitted to being in possession of 9mm handgun at the time of the shooting.

On July 19 1983, exactly two years after the date of the murder, a Kern County Jury found Aldana guilty of one count of murder in the second degree. In addition, the jury found true the special allegation that Aldana personally used a firearm to commit the murder. He was however acquitted of an additional count of murder and one count of assault with great bodily injury. On September 2, 1983, a Kern County Judge sentenced him to 17 years to life in prison.

On April 30, 2025, the BPH conducted Aldana's fourteenth parole hearing. Aldana is currently 79 years old and has served approximately 43 years in prison. At the hearing, Aldana told the board that he takes responsibility for the deaths of two individuals and the injury to three other individuals but denied

stabbing anyone. However, Aldana said he only fired shots in the air. The commissioners focused on Aldana's lack of insight into the life crime, his gang activity in prison, parole plans, and recent institutional misconduct for weapons possession.

The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Aldana was not suitable for parole and posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society. The BPH has the option of denying an inmate parole for a period of 15, 10, 7, 5 or 3 years. Aldana's commissioners issued a three-year denial. As such, Aldana's next parole hearing date could potentially be in 18 months.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "We have stood strong in our opposition to Aldana's release. After 14 hearings, justice has prevailed, with the Board of Parole rightly acknowledging Aldana's continued lack of accountability and ongoing gang involvement during his time in prison – a clear threat to public safety."