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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by 

District Attorney Lisa S. Green announced today that a Kern County jury found Rigoberto Sanchez guilty of first degree murder, attempted murder, shooting at an inhabited dwelling, assault with a firearm, and burglary. The jury further found Sanchez personally and intentionally discharged a firearm during the commission of the above-listed crimes. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Gina Pearl.

Rigoberto Sanchez and the two victims, Sandra Sanchez and Edwin Lima, worked as correctional officers with the California Department of Corrections at Tehachapi State Prison. In late 2016, Rigoberto Sanchez and his wife, Sandra Sanchez, separated. Sandra Sanchez began dating Edwin Lima. During the spring of 2017, Rigoberto Sanchez twice burglarized Sandra Sanchez's apartment.

On the night of May 28, 2017, Rigoberto Sanchez drove to Sandra Sanchez's apartment knowing both Sandra Sanchez and Edwin Lima were there. Rigoberto Sanchez walked directly to the apartment's master bedroom window and was armed with a firearm. Rigoberto Sanchez threw a cinderblock into the master bedroom window and once he could see inside, Rigoberto Sanchez began shooting directly at Edwin Lima and Sandra Sanchez. Edwin Lima was killed instantly and suffered approximately 17 gunshot wounds to his head and body. Sandra Sanchez narrowly escaped and called 911.

Immediately after the shooting, Rigoberto Sanchez fled to Mexico where he hid for 22 days. Local law enforcement worked closely with the United States Marshals Service and the Mexican authorities to apprehend Sanchez.

Sanchez faces 79 years to life in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for October 17, 2018 before the Honorable Gary T. Friedman.