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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Approved by JAK**  
**Press Release #20-09**

**Re: Murder Trial Conviction: People v. Daniel Mejia: BF 171504A**

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction in a DUI murder case today. On March 2, 2020, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Michelle Domino, a Kern County jury found defendant Daniel Mejia guilty of two counts of Second Degree Murder for the killing of Karla Mendoza and Axel, Karla's five year-old son. The jury also found Mejia guilty of two counts of Gross Vehicular Manslaughter While Intoxicated and Driving Under the Influence charges as well as found true that Mejia's actions caused great bodily injury on a third victim, Zoey, a child under five years old.

At 4:15 pm on November 24, 2017, Daniel Mejia was intoxicated and drove a 2017 Chevrolet Silverado truck southbound on Highway 99 just before Taft Highway where he caused a collision. As a result of the collision, Karla Mendoza and her five-year-old son, Axel, were both killed. Additionally, three-year-old Zoey Mendoza was severely injured. Mejia was coming from Dinuba, California, a town in northern Tulare County and he was driving to his residence in San Bernardino County when the crash occurred. As Mejia drove southbound through Tulare County into Kern County, several witnesses observed his erratic, reckless and drunk driving and called 911.

A forensic review of the Mejia's truck produced evidence that the Mejia had his accelerator pedal pressed at 98% of full throttle, and that he was speeding at 98 miles per hour just seconds before the collision that killed Karla and Axel.

A blood draw obtained from Mejia after the collision showed Mejia's Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) to be .231 percent, about three times the legal limit of .08.

Advised of the conviction, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented that "The catastrophic consequences of drunk driving are well-known. When drunk drivers ignore the dangers of driving under the influence and take the lives of innocent victims, they can and will be prosecuted for murder."

Sentencing is scheduled for April 22. Mejia faces a sentence of up to 38 years-to-life in prison.

Daniel Mejia:

