



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

June 30, 2022

MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:

DDA Cyrus Shahbazian
(661) 868-2755

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by JAK
Press Release #22-41

**Gang Member Found Guilty of All Charges in Shafter Gang-Related Attempted Murder Shooting
Case: *People v. Sergio Acosta, Jr.*: Kern County Superior Court Case #SF020234A**

Bakersfield -- Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant jury verdict in a gang-related attempted murder case today. On June 29, 2022, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Cyrus Shahbazian, a Kern County jury found defendant Sergio Acosta Jr. guilty of Attempted Murder, Shooting at an Inhabited Dwelling, Assault with a Semi-Automatic Firearm, Active Participation in a Criminal Street Gang, and found true several gang allegations, firearm allegations, and a great bodily injury allegation alleged for the October 17, 2020, shooting of a 36-year-old male victim. The jury also found Acosta guilty of additional charges including being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition on a separate occasion.

During the evening of October 17, 2020, the victim was washing his vehicle in front of his residence in Shafter. It was at this time that Acosta and another member of a Shafter-based criminal street gang walked by the victim's residence. Acosta retrieved a firearm, pointed it at the victim, and fired six rounds, striking the victim in the lower back and the left leg. One round struck the residence and caused interior damage to the bathtub. The victim survived the shooting.

On December 19, 2020, officers with the Shafter Police Department conducted a lawful search of Acosta's home. During the search, officers located a shotgun and ammunition, which Acosta was prohibited from possessing due to his prior felony convictions. The investigation further led officers to connect Acosta to the October 17 shooting, which Acosta admitted to committing at the direction of his gang.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating; "Gang-related violent crime will continue to be a focus of this office, and those who target others for violent crime based on gang-related motives will be prosecuted."

Sentencing is scheduled for September 9, 2022 in front of the Honorable Judge Twisselman, where Acosta faces a sentence up to 33 years to life in prison.