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July 18, 2022

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by CJZ
Press Release #22-46

Re: First Degree Murder Convictions, People v. Gerell Hasley and Seantazz Thomason
Case Number: BF173252AC

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced significant convictions today. Two Kern County juries separately found defendants Gerell Hasley and Seantazz Thomason guilty of the first degree murder, torture, kidnapping with robbery, and second degree robbery of victim Moises Leon. The case was prosecuted by Chief Trial Deputy Eric Smith.

On July 26, 2018, the victim Moises Leon arrived at 3901 Q Street after being lured to the apartments via phone calls made by an accomplice of Hasley and Thomason. While at the apartment complex, the victim was violently assaulted, put into the rear of his vehicle, and driven away. Hasley and Thomason drove the victim throughout northeast Bakersfield while trying to locate the large amount of cash the victim was known to maintain. During the drive, they continued to assault the victim, who was ultimately shot and killed. The victim's vehicle was reported on fire by a concerned citizen in the early morning hours of July 27 in the 800 block of Pacheco Avenue. After the fire was extinguished, firefighters located the deceased body of Moises Leon on the rear floorboard. Bakersfield Police Department responded and initiated their homicide investigation. Detectives observed the victim's injuries consistent with being prodded with the barrel of a firearm, blunt force trauma from being pistol whipped, a dislocated shoulder, multiple burn marks, severe swelling to the face, and gunshot wounds to his ear, head, and chest.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer stated, "The defendants brutally robbed and tortured the victim. The victim's death resulted from the defendants' extended infliction of senseless violence originating from their planned robbery. The conviction of the defendants, by dual juries, ensures accountability and justice for their crime."

Following the jury's guilty verdicts Gerell Hasley and Seantazz Thomason face a potential of 25 years to life in prison when they are sentenced before the Honorable Judge Charles Brehmer. Hasley is scheduled to be sentenced September 7th, while Thomason is set for sentencing on August 15, 2022



Gerell Hasley



Seantazz Thomason