



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

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**PRESS RELEASE**

12/13/17

**LINDSAY GANG MEMBER SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR  
MURDER AND RED SOL CRIMES**

Today in Department 17 of the Tulare County Superior Court, South County Justice Center, Judge Michael Sheltzer sentenced Roberto Saldana, age 28, of Lindsay, to 56 years to life in prison for gang crimes, including murder. Saldana was found guilty of numerous crimes by a Tulare County jury on October 12, 2017. The trial was a consolidation of three cases consisting of crimes spanning from 2008 to 2016.

On July 20, 2008, Saldana strangled and stabbed a perceived rival gang member in Lindsay after gang slurs were exchanged. Saldana was found guilty of second-degree murder with the special allegation that the crime was committed for the benefit of a criminal street gang and that a deadly weapon was used. The Lindsay Department of Public Safety was the investigating agency.

On August 24 to 25, 2015, Saldana and other gang members were in route to commit a series of home invasion robberies in Visalia when they were arrested as part of Operation Red Sol, a California Department of Justice wiretap operation against Norteno gang members. Saldana was found guilty of conspiracy to commit home invasion robbery, criminal gang conspiracy to commit home invasion robbery, attempted home invasion robbery, and being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. The California Department of Justice, the Tulare County Sheriff's Office, the California Highway Patrol, and the Visalia Police Department were the investigating agencies.

On July 27, 2016, while in custody at the Bob Wiley Detention Facility, Saldana and other gang members attacked another inmate who was exiting the shower, beating and stabbing him multiple times. Saldana was found guilty of attempted premeditated murder with the special allegation that the crime was for the benefit of a criminal street

gang and that a deadly weapon was used, criminal street gang conspiracy to commit murder, and assault with a deadly weapon with gang, great bodily injury, and use of a deadly weapon special allegations. The Tulare County Sheriff's Office was the investigating agency.

Evidence at trial noted Saldana's gang moniker to be "The Grinch." Saldana has a prior felony conviction for possession of a sawed-off shotgun in 2013. He was on probation for this case when he was arrested as part of Operation Red Sol.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Kirk Davis of the Major Crimes Division.

*Media inquiries can be directed to the Office of the District Attorney, County of Tulare  
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