



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

---

**PRESS RELEASE**

8/28/17

**VISALIA MAN DENIED PAROLE FOR 1980 MURDER**

On August 23, 2017, at Pleasant Valley State Prison in Coalinga, a California parole board denied parole for Sistos Rodriguez, age 60, for murder. Rodriguez received a seven year denial and is not eligible for another hearing until 2024.

Around 1:45 am on January 6, 1980, in north Visalia, the victim's wife looked out her window at their car and saw Rodriguez in the back seat tampering with the dome light. Opening her front door to confront him, Rodriguez approached and demanded entry. As she turned the porch light on, Rodriguez ran behind the house. Attempting to gain entry through the back of the house by prying open a door, Rodriguez was again confronted by the victim's wife. He then pointed a .30-30 rifle at her. She screamed, and Rodriguez fled the property.

At this time the victim joined his wife, and both heard the rattling of a chain link fence as Rodriguez climbed over it. Armed with a knife, the victim confronted Rodriguez, who shot him with the rifle. Rodriguez again fled, this time to a nearby grocery store roof, where he watched first responders arrive at the house. He was located by police and taken in to custody.

Rodriguez was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

This was Rodriguez's fifth parole denial since being sentenced in 1980. The District Attorney's Office routinely attends parole hearings and a Supervising Deputy District Attorney argued against the inmate's release in this case.

*Media inquiries can be directed to the Office of the District Attorney, County of Tulare  
Assistant District Attorney Dave Alavezos (559) 636-5494*