



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

9/13/17

**PORTERVILLE GANG MEMBER SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON
FOR MURDER**

Yesterday in Department 10 of the Tulare County Superior Court, Visalia Division, Judge Kathryn Montejano sentenced Federico Mejia, age 34, of Porterville, to 55 years to life in prison for murder. On July 13, 2017, Mejia pleaded no contest to one count of first-degree murder with the special allegations of street terrorism, that the crime was committed for the benefit of a street gang, personal discharge of a firearm, and that he suffered a previous felony and prison term for gang crimes in 2003.

In the early morning hours of February 4, 2013, Mejia and a co-defendant, Arnold Sanchez, approached a car in the parking lot of a Porterville gas station and asked the occupants about their gang affiliation. When the occupants of the car stated that they did not understand the question as they did not speak English, Mejia brandished a pistol and fired a single shot at one of the occupants, a 19-year-old male. Mejia and Sanchez fled to a truck driven by Mejia's girlfriend, Adriana Jaimez, who had been putting gas in the vehicle and paid using a debit card. Police used the receipt, surveillance video, and Facebook to identify and locate the defendants soon after the shooting.

Sanchez pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and special allegations of use of a firearm and street terrorism on July 13, 2017. He was sentenced to 19 years in prison on September 5, 2017. Adriana Jaimez pleaded guilty to being an accessory after the fact on February 4, 2015, and was sentenced to felony probation.

The case was prosecuted by Supervising Deputy District Attorney Jamil Nushwat and was investigated by the Porterville Police Department.

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