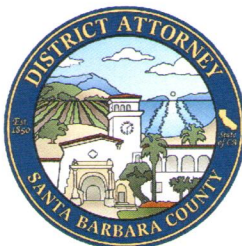


OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

**JOYCE E. DUDLEY**  
District Attorney



DA 09-262

RELEASE NUMBER

September 22, 2014

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley*, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Kelly D. Scott, Chief Deputy District Attorney

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\* \* \* \* \* P R E S S   R E L E A S E \* \* \* \* \*

September 22, 2014

**RE: *People v. Raymond Daniel Macias, Case Number 1434130***

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that a jury in Santa Maria convicted Raymond Daniel Macias of kidnapping for extortion with the special allegations of causing substantial injury, principal use of a firearm, and the criminal street gang allegation. Raymond Macias is facing a sentence of life without the possibility of parole based on his conviction today. Macias was a leader of the Sureno gangs in Santa Barbara County for several years and was working directly for a prominent and violent prison gang.

On January 3, 2013 several gang members lured John Doe to a garage in Lompoc. While in the garage, gang member Luis Alfredo Almanza struck John Doe in arm with a hatchet. Other gang members then tied up John Doe, duct taped his mouth, and tied him to a milk crate on top of plastic covering the floor and walls. Several hours later Macias arrived and then proceed to extort the prison gang's tax and drug money owed by John Doe.

In June of 2013, the Criminal Grand Jury indicted Macias, Almanza and ten other gang members for a variety of charges. In June of 2014, a jury convicted Macias of torture with the special allegations of principal use of a firearm and the criminal street gang allegation plus sale of methamphetamine with the criminal street gang allegation, but hung on the count of kidnapping for extortion. Also in June the jury convicted Almanza of kidnapping for extortion, with the special allegation of causing substantial injury, and torture with the special allegations of principal use of a firearm, personal use of a deadly weapon and the criminal street gang allegation. Almanza was sentenced to eleven years determinate followed by life without the possibility of parole.

All twelve defendants have been convicted of charges ranging from drug sales to torture that all include the criminal street gang allegation. The Lompoc Police Department is the lead agency in this investigation along with the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms. They were assisted in the investigation by the Santa Barbara Police Department and in the arrests by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department. The Santa Maria Police Department also dedicated significant resources to these trials as the lead investigator; Officer Scott Casey now works for SMPD. The District Attorney commends all the allied agencies for their outstanding work on this investigation.

District Attorney Dudley says, "This investigation and resulting successful prosecutions are the direct result of the hard work, commitment and intelligence of multiple law enforcement agencies and the staff of the District Attorney's office, led by Senior DDA Ann Bramsen. Collectively we will continue to seek to abolish gang violence in our county. This conviction alone is a significant blow to the Sureno gang organization."

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