



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

10/13/17

LINDSAY GANG MEMBER CONVICTED OF MURDER, CONSPIRACY

Yesterday in Department 17 of the Tulare County Superior Court, South County Justice Center, Judge Michael Sheltzer presiding, a Tulare County jury convicted Roberto Saldana, age 28, of Lindsay, of murder, attempted murder, weapons possession, conspiracy, and other gang crimes. 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 Police Department was the investigating agency. In this case, Saldana faces 16 years to life in prison.

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. In this case, Saldana faces 15 years to life in prison.

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. In this case, Saldana faces 25 years to life in prison.

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.

Sentencing is set for November 17, 2017, in Superior Court. Saldana faces a maximum sentence of 56 years to life in prison.

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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