



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

10/30/17

VISALIA MURDERER DENIED PAROLE

On October 25, 2017, at Folsom State Prison, a California parole board denied parole for Chiew Kuang Saechao, age 47, for murder. Saechao received a five year denial and is not eligible for another hearing until 2022.

In September of 1995, Saechao's father was periodically being treated by the victim, described as a "medicine man," for ailments. The victim had also contacted Saechao to buy drugs. On September 10, the victim went to Saechao's residence in Visalia and was held at knifepoint by Saechao and a co-defendant, Jose Almanza. The victim was told he was going to be killed for failing to heal Saechao's father, and was stabbed. Saechao and Almanza wrapped the body in a blanket, placed it in the trunk of a car, and abandoned it in a field.

Saechao was convicted of first-degree murder with a knife and sentenced to 26 years to life in prison in 1996. Almanza was also found guilty of first-degree murder.

This was Saechao's initial parole hearing. The District Attorney's Office routinely attends parole hearings and a Supervising Deputy District Attorney argued against the inmate's release in this case.

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