



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

8/15/17

**REEDLEY GANG MEMBER SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR RED SOL
CONSPIRACY CONVICTIONS**

Yesterday in Department 5 of the Tulare County Superior Court, Visalia Division, Judge Joseph Kalashian sentenced Pedro Lopez, age 35, of Reedley, to 54 years to life in prison for gang crimes related to 2015's Operation Red Sol gang sweep, which became the largest criminal filing in county history. Lopez's conviction was the first jury trial conviction of a defendant charged in the case.

Lopez was found guilty on February 24, 2017, of two counts of conspiracy to commit home invasion robbery, one count of criminal street gang conspiracy, one count of attempted home invasion robbery, one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm, and one count of being a felon in possession of ammunition. Each count is a felony and is enhanced with gang allegations. Lopez was also found to possess a prior felony assault strike and prison term from 2008.

On August 24 and 25, 2015, local law enforcement, along with the California Department of Justice, was engaged in conducting a large scale wiretap operation targeting the Tulare County Norteno criminal street gang. On these dates, it became apparent several subjects were plotting to commit multiple home invasion robberies in Visalia. On August 25, gang members, including Lopez, set out to commit the robberies but were stopped by the Visalia Police Department following a high speed pursuit and foot chase through an east Visalia neighborhood.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Kirk Davis of the Major Crimes Division and investigated by Detective Jeremy Rose of the Tulare County Sheriff's Office.

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