



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

9/7/17

**RED SOL BROTHERS SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR GANG
CRIMES**

Today in Department 5 of the Tulare County Superior Court, Visalia Division, Judge Joseph Kalashian sentenced brothers Cervando Avalos, age 31, to 28 years to life and Emanuel Avalos, age 27, to 110 years and 8 months to life for numerous gang crimes including conspiracy to commit murder. The brothers, both from Lindsay, were arrested as part of Operation Red Sol, an October 2015 gang sweep of Norteno gang members that became the largest criminal case in Tulare County history. They were convicted of the crimes by a jury on July 27, 2017.

Cervando Avalos was convicted of conspiracy to commit home invasion robbery, attempted home invasion robbery, two counts of conspiracy to commit grand theft of marijuana, grand theft of marijuana, conspiracy to possess and transport cocaine for sale, and possession of cocaine for sale. Special allegations were also found true that the crimes were committed for the benefit of a criminal street gang and that a firearm was used.

Emanuel Avalos was convicted of conspiracy to receive a stolen vehicle, extortion, conspiracy to commit home invasion robbery, attempted home invasion robbery, three counts of conspiracy to commit murder, attempted murder, possession of methamphetamine for sale, and possession of a stolen vehicle. Special allegations were also found true that the crimes were committed for the benefit of a criminal street gang and that a firearm was used.

In August and September of 2015, local law enforcement and the California Department of Justice were conducting a large scale wiretap operation targeting the Tulare County Norteno criminal street gang. During this time, the Avalos brothers committed the

crimes of which they were convicted for the benefit of the gang. The conspiracies to commit murder were against a Strathmore business owner and rival gang members. Conspiracy to commit murder and the attempted murder of a dropout gang member also occurred during this time. Both brothers were considered high-ranking members at the time of their arrest on October 1, 2015.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorneys Kirk Davis and Benjamin Taksa of the Major Crimes Division. The case was primarily investigated by the Tulare County Sheriff's Office and the California Department of Justice with assistance from numerous Tulare County law enforcement agencies.

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