



Riverside County District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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DESERT HOT SPRINGS GANG MEMBER EARNS 142 YEARS TO LIFE

INDIO, CA. – Today, May 21, 2010, the Honorable Judge Richard A. Erwood sentenced Anthony Albert Paez, a Desert Hot Springs gang member, to 142 years to life in prison for the murder of his accomplice and the attempted murder of three police officers during a shootout with police last year.

In February of this year, a Riverside County jury convicted Paez (DOB: 09/19/89), of murder, three counts of attempted murder of a peace officer, and found true special allegations that he committed the crimes on behalf of a criminal street gang. In all, Paez was convicted of 14 felonies.

“This sentence means a lot for Desert Hot Springs,” said Assistant District Attorney Sara Danville. “The community must know that the gang members who terrorize our streets will be aggressively prosecuted.”

Paez, along with his co-defendant Edgar Antonio Flores (DOB: 07/04/92), engaged in a shootout with police on May 30, 2009, that left their accomplice, Alexis Melendrez, dead. Along with Paez, Flores was found guilty of murder.

Flores faces 40 years to life in prison when he is sentenced on June 23, 2010.

The case, INF062219, was by prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Anthony Orlando of the Gang Unit.

“One of Riverside County’s Most Wanted will never terrorize the streets of Desert Hot Springs again,” said Orlando. “I commend the brave officers who put their lives in danger in order to pursue this violent gang member.”

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