



CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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JUDGE ORDERS MAN TO STAND TRIAL FOR 2009 MURDER AND THREE ATTEMPTED MURDERS AT KOREAN RETREAT CENTER NEAR TEMECULA

MURRIETA – A judge today, June 4, 2010, ordered a 70-year-old man to stand trial for the murder of a woman and the attempted murders of three more victims at a Korean retreat center last year.

John Suchan Chong is charged with one count of murder and three counts of attempted murder for the shootings on April 7, 2009 at the center off Highway 79 South, east of the city of Temecula.

Today, Judge Albert Wojcik listened to testimony at Chong's preliminary hearing at the Southwest Justice Center in Murrieta. The judge then ruled there was enough evidence for Chong to stand trial on all charges.

The night of the shootings, Chong forced his way into the home of a couple staying at the retreat center where Chong had worked as a handyman. Once inside the home, Chong sat down and told the couple he was going to spend the rest of his life in prison, either for killing them or leaving them paralyzed. Chong then shot the husband in the chest and the victim's wife, Chuneyi Yun, in the head, killing her. Her husband survived the gunshot.

Chong then went to the home of a second couple staying at the retreat center. He went inside where the woman was praying, pointed his gun at her head and fired, but missed. The woman's husband then struggled with Chong and beat Chong with a barbell until he was subdued. Chong was arrested by Riverside County sheriff's deputies who responded to the retreat center.

Chong had a previous disagreement with both couples he attacked that night.

Chong is scheduled to return June 18, 2010, to Dept. S202 at the Southwest Justice Center to be arraigned on the information.

The case, SWF028437, is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Brandon Smith of the Homicide Unit.

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