



Riverside County District Attorney

CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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For Immediate Release
March 18, 2011

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MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR 2009 SHOOTING RAMPAGE NEAR TEMECULA THAT LEFT ONE WOMAN DEAD

MURRIETA – A man was sentenced to life in prison today, March 18, 2011, for the 2009 murder of a woman at a Korean retreat center east of Temecula.

John Suchan Chong, DOB: 6-24-39, was sentenced to 96 years to life, plus a 40-year determinate sentence in prison for the shooting rampage the night of April 7, 2009, at the Kkottongnae Korean Retreat Camp on Highway 79 South, east of the city of Temecula.

Chong was convicted on Feb. 17, 2011, by a Riverside County jury of first-degree murder for killing Chuneui “Scholastica” Yun. Jurors also found Chong guilty of the attempted murder of three other residents at the retreat center: Yun’s husband, Jungpil “Benedict” Yun, and Joseph and Julina Kim.

Chong, who also lived at the retreat center, told authorities he felt all the victims had not shown him the proper respect and had not properly treated the Catholic nuns at the camp. He went to the homes of the victims with a loaded handgun and more bullets in his pockets.

He forced his way into the Yun home at the retreat center where Chong had worked as a handyman. Once inside the home, Chong shot Jungpil Yun in the chest and Chuneui Yun in the head, killing her. Her husband survived the gunshot.

Chong then went to the Kim’s home where Julina Kim was praying, pointed his gun at her head and fired, but missed. The woman’s husband, Joseph, 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.

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