



OFFICE OF THE  
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COUNTY OF SHASTA

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Redding Gang Member Convicted of Attempted Murder

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Yesterday, Michael Diaz III, a 39 year old member of the Norteno Street Gang, a native of East San Jose, living in Redding California, was convicted of two counts of attempted murder (Penal Code section 664/187), two counts of assault with a deadly weapon (Penal Code section 245(a)(1) and two counts of battery causing serious bodily injury (Penal Code 243(d)) as well as one count of active participation in a criminal street gang (P.C. section 186.22(a)). The jury also found that Diaz committed the charged crimes for the benefit of the Norteno street gang. (Penal code section 186.22(b)(1)(c)).

All seven gang convictions are “strikes” under the California Three Strikes Law.

The gang charges stemmed from a knife attack the defendant made on two Redding men that the defendant mistook for members of a rival gang. After sneaking up and stabbing the first victim from behind he slashed the second victim who stepped between the defendant and his first victim and tried to disarm him. Both victims underwent emergency surgery and survived the attacks.

The defendant fled before police arrived. A few hours later Redding Police officers located the defendant passed out in a school yard with a bloody knife in his pocket. That knife was analyzed at the Department of Justice laboratory in Redding and it was determined through DNA testing that the blood was the victims' blood.

Redding police officers and investigators from the Shasta County District Attorney's Office worked together investigating these cases.

Sentencing in the case is scheduled for November 10, 2015. The defendant faces a possible 53 years in state prison.