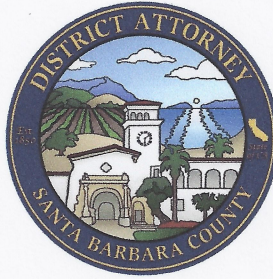


OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
**JOYCE E. DUDLEY**  
District Attorney



DA 06-173

RELEASE NUMBER

June 7, 2013

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley*  
JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

*Ann Bramsen*, Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT S (805) 346-7540

\*\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

June 7, 2013

**Re: *People v. Raymond Macias, et al.***

On Friday, June 7, 2013, at 1:00 p.m., Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley and Lompoc Police Chief Larry Ralston will announce that the Grand Jury handed down indictments against a number of defendants, who were all part of a large scale enforcement operation conducted by the Lompoc Police Department over the past eight months. The announcement will occur at the Lompoc City Council Chambers, located at 100 Civic Center Plaza, in Lompoc, California.

These indictments came as a result of an extraordinary investigation led by the Lompoc Police Department Gang and Narcotic Enforcement Team with the assistance of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the outcome of which was to successfully infiltrate a criminal street gang that had been operating throughout Santa Barbara County.

The Grand Jury indicted defendants for the kidnapping and torture of John Doe, which occurred on January 3, 2013. The Grand Jury indicted Raymond Macias, Juan Zavala, Luis Almanza, Ivan Rodriguez, Gabriel Castaneda-Luna, Philip Lopez, Jr., Richard Lopez, and Frankie Lopez for Kidnapping for Extortion and Torture with the special allegations of use of a gun and the gang enhancement, plus the special allegation of use of a knife against Luis Almanza. In addition, Raymond Macias and Juan Zavala were indicted for Solicitation for Extortion with the gang enhancement. Also, Raymond Macias, Ivan Rodriguez, Frankie Lopez, and Joseph Gasca were indicted for sales of narcotics with the gang enhancement. Gerardo Esquivel was indicted for sales of fake heroin with the gang enhancement. Finally, Ivan Rodriguez and Michael Torres were indicted for felon in possession of a firearm and for sale of a firearm to a felon with the gang enhancement.

Raymond Macias, Juan Zavala, Luis Almanza, Ivan Rodriguez, Gabriel Castaneda-Luna, Philip Lopez Jr., Richard Lopez, and Frankie Lopez all face a possible sentence of life without the possibility of parole if convicted of the kidnapping for extortion charges.

Joseph Gasca faces a maximum of eight years in prison. Gerardo Esquivel and Michael Torres face a maximum of seven years in prison.

District Attorney Dudley commends the herculean effort and exceptional investigation by the Lompoc Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Their eight month long investigation required the deployment of extremely dedicated officers and significant resources. District Attorney Dudley further commends Senior Deputy District Attorney Bramsen and her team for their hard work and attention to detail.

The defendants will be arraigned on June 10, 2013, in Dept. 9, in Santa Maria, California.

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