



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 22, 2017

FRANCISCO ZERMENO CONVICTED OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER

Senior Deputy District Attorney Billy Terrence is pleased to announce that today, August 22, 2017, Francisco Zermeno was convicted of murder for the shooting death of Hugo Gonzalez Vargas.

On the evening of May 6, 2015, Mr. Zermeno shot and killed his roommate, Hugo Vargas, just outside of their trailer west of Firebaugh. Mr. Zermeno fled Fresno County after the shooting, and was arrested five days later in Red Bluff, California.

Today, a Fresno County jury found Mr. Zermeno guilty of First Degree Murder. The jury also found that Mr. Zermeno used a firearm during the commission of the murder.

The defendant is currently in custody at the Fresno County Jail. He faces a sentence of up to 50 years-to-life when he is sentenced on September 13, 2017, at 8:30 a.m., in Department 50 of the Fresno County Superior Court. However, upon reaching age 60, and after serving 25 years, Mr. Zermeno will be eligible for early release under the Elderly Parole Program.

The Media may email FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us or contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions.

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