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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: February 15, 2017
Re: Press Conference on the Capitol steps

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that there will be a press conference held this Friday, February 17, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. on the west steps of the State Capitol building in Sacramento. The purpose of the press conference is to ask Governor Jerry Brown to overturn two recent parole decisions granting freedom to two convicted killers.

On January 4, 2017, Jeffrey Maria was found suitable for parole by the Board of Parole Hearings. On January 19, 2017, the board found Marty Spears suitable for parole. These decisions have been sent to the Governor for review.

In June 1979, Philip and Kathryn Ranzo were brutally murdered in Modesto. Four people, including Maria and Spears, approached the Ranzo home under the ruse that they had run out of gas and needed a phone to call for help. Acting as a good Samaritan, Mr. Ranzo directed them to his garage to retrieve a can of gas.

Maria and Spears then forced Mr. Ranzo at gunpoint into the garage and hogtied him. They used his ten-year-old son's baseball bat to brutally beat him. The killers tortured Mr. Ranzo with a hatchet - slicing his throat and eyelids. He died from his wounds. Spears and other crime partner then brutally raped Kathryn Ranzo. She was bound, stabbed multiple times, and generally tortured until she died. The home was then ransacked for money.

Philip and Kathryn were upstanding citizens in Modesto. Philip was a pharmacist and Kathryn owned her own beauty salon. They left behind a ten-year-old son, Mark Ranzo, who will be in attendance at the press conference, along with other family members, friends and concerned citizens.

These brutal and outrageous criminals should not be released into society. We are urging the citizens of California to join us in keeping our community safe and keeping these dangerous murderers in custody.

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