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Eastern District of California

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ARMED KIDNAPPERS SENTENCED TO LENGTHY PRISON TERMS

FRESNO, Calif. — United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that, on October 8, 2009, United States District Court Judge Lawrence J. O’Neill sentenced JUSTO MATA BUSTOS, 27, of Parlier, and FERNANDO ESPANA RUBIO, 21, of Madera, each to 14 years and three months in prison for the armed kidnapping of a Tracy jewelry store owner. On October 2, 2009, Judge O’Neill sentenced co-defendant DIANA TERAN 30 of Madera, to 10 years and one month in prison. All three defendants pleaded guilty to kidnapping, and BUSTOS and RUBIO also pleaded guilty to brandishing a firearm in connection with a crime of violence.

This case was the product of an investigation by the Manteca Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Duce Rice and Kevin P. Rooney, who prosecuted the case, all three defendants admitted that the victim was lured to a motel in Manteca and taken captive at gunpoint, as part of a plan to steal the victim’s jewelry store’s inventory. The defendants took the captive victim away from the motel in the victim’s own car. When the victim saw a Manteca Police officer, he jumped from the car, and a high speed chase ensued. BUSTOS and RUBIO threw handguns out the car’s windows before they were captured.

During sentencing, Judge O’Neill emphasized the extreme violence and danger inherent in the crime and the attempted escape.

United States Attorney Brown stated, “This successful prosecution was the result of the Manteca Police Department’s superlative response to an emergency situation as well as a coordinated investigation by that Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration.”

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