



GREGORY D. TOTTEN
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for 2014 Oxnard Murder and Attempted Murder

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Jesus Samuel Duarte (DOB 8/10/79), of Oxnard, was sentenced to a term of 89 years to life in prison for the murder of 24-year-old Joshua Aaron Van and the attempted murder of 18-year-old Dontre Ronell Bryant for the benefit of a criminal street gang. Duarte used a firearm during the commission of the offenses.

On February 17, 2014, the victims were shot in the 2000 block of Mariposa Street in Oxnard. Van suffered one gunshot wound to the chest and died at the scene. Bryant suffered one gunshot wound to his abdomen but survived. Minutes prior to the shooting, an associate of Van and Bryant got into a verbal disagreement with Duarte and an accomplice while at a convenience market on North Ventura Road in Oxnard. A portion of that argument was captured on surveillance video. Oxnard Police Department detectives published photos from the surveillance video, which led to the identification and arrest of Duarte and his accomplice.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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