



## COUNTY OF FRESNO

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Lisa A. Smittcamp  
District Attorney

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **DUI DRIVER FOUND GUILTY OF 4 COUNTS OF MURDER SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON**

Today, Rien Ban was sentenced to sixty (60) years to life in prison for a 2014 DUI collision that killed four people. The prosecution was led by Senior Deputy District Attorney Billy Terrence and Senior Investigator Jesse Perez.

On June 22, 2014, Mr. Ban caused a collision on Highway 180 between Kerman and Mendota killing Lisandro Rodriguez (10), Danny Rodriguez (7), Belkys Quezada (25), and Sinoeun Uong (37). Mr. Ban's blood alcohol level was measured at 0.21% two hours after the collision.

Mr. Ban had twice been convicted of driving under the influence 2000 and 2006. In each of those cases, Mr. Ban was warned that if he continued to drive under the influence of alcohol, and as a result somebody was killed, he could be charged with murder.

Because of his history of driving under the influence, the District Attorney's Office elected to prosecute Mr. Ban for murder, as opposed to gross vehicular manslaughter, based on the theory that he acted with a conscious disregard for human life when he chose to drink and drive. On November 17, 2016, a Fresno County jury deliberated for one hour before finding Mr. Ban guilty of four (4) counts of second degree murder.

Fresno County Superior Court Judge Conklin sentenced Mr. Ban to the maximum term of sixty (60) years to life at the California State Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. However, upon reaching age 60 and after serving 25 years, Mr. Ban will be eligible for release under the Elderly Parole program.

SDDA Terrence stated, "The defendant placed his own selfish interest to drink and drive above the safety of other human beings in our community."

The Media may contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions.

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