



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



MICHAEL L. RAMSEY
District Attorney

FRANCISCO R. ZARATE
Chief Deputy District Attorney

RICHARD WEST
Chief Investigator

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
May 16, 2013

Teenage Gang Member found Guilty of Stabbing

A 14-year-old Chico gang member has been found guilty of a February 3, 2013 stabbing, in which two adults were stabbed, one seriously. The young gangster had gone to trial yesterday in Butte County Juvenile Court and was found guilty by a judge of two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with an allegation of great bodily injury.

District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the teenage boy had been walking with two females, 16 and 21, on East 20th Street near Winco when the group passed by two adult males, ages 29 and 38, who were smoking outside a local bar. The adults made a comment about the teen “dragging his feet” to which the boy and the females took offense and a verbal argument between the two groups began. The verbal argument ended when the boy stabbed both men with a knife he produced from his pocket and then the boy and females ran off. Chico Police were called and first found the females and later the boy, who was arrested and put in Juvenile Hall where he has been since the stabbing.

The 29-year-old victim received five life-threatening wounds to his neck, back, side and abdomen. He underwent emergency surgery at Enloe Hospital and remained hospitalized for several days. The other male received a minor stab wound to his stomach and refused medical treatment.

Ramsey said this stabbing was the first of rash of unrelated stabbings in Chico starting in early February, 2013. Ramsey noted that although boy involved was a gang member, the stabbing was not gang-motivated and no gang enhancement was sought during the juvenile’s trial yesterday. Ramsey said this was not the boy’s first brush with the law and after his trial, the boy admitted to prior separate criminal incidents of being drunk in public, possession of alcohol by a minor, and running from a Chico police officer who was responding to a report of brandishing a knife in the Ricky Court area. The teen now faces possible imprisonment in the California Department of Juvenile Justice, formerly known as the California Youth Authority, when he returns to juvenile court on June 5, 2013 for sentencing. He remains in juvenile hall pending a sentencing report by the Butte County Probation Department.