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NEWS RELEASE

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Felon Charged After Motorcycle Pursuit in El Monte

A 50-year-old man pleaded not guilty today to leading police on a pursuit and having a physical altercation with an officer in El Monte on Saturday, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

George Vaitoelau Olotoa (dob 4/12/66) of El Monte was charged today with four felony counts in case KA112972: fleeing a pursuing peace officer's motor vehicle while driving recklessly, resisting an executive officer, possession of a firearm by a felon and possession of ammunition.

The felony complaint also alleges that the defendant was previously convicted of assault with a deadly weapon and robbery in 1985.

On July 2, Olotoa reportedly was riding a motorcycle when an El Monte police officer attempted to pull him over for a vehicle code violation. The defendant allegedly did not pull over and a pursuit ensued, prosecutors said.

At one point, the pursuit stopped and Olotoa and the officer reportedly engaged in a scuffle before the defendant mounted his vehicle again and continued to flee from police, according to prosecutors.

Olotoa eventually collided with a vehicle and was ejected from the motorcycle, prosecutors added.

Law enforcement arrested the defendant and allegedly discovered a loaded firearm in Olotoa's backpack, prosecutors said.

The defendant is scheduled to return to court for a hearing on July 21 in Department 3 at the Los Angeles County Superior Court, El Monte Branch.

If convicted as charged, Olotoa faces a maximum possible sentence of 25 years to life in state prison.

The case is being investigated by the El Monte Police Department.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.