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NEWS RELEASE

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Gang Member Sentenced to Prison for Christmas Eve Killing

A 35-year-old El Monte man was sentenced today to 86 years to life in state prison for killing a rival gang member in 2010, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

In August, a jury found Johnny Mata guilty of two felony counts in case KA101342: first-degree murder and possession of a firearm by a felon.

Additionally, jurors found true the special allegation that the killing was committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, and in association with a criminal street gang with the specific intent to promote, further and assist in criminal conduct by gang members.

Mata's co-defendant, Jesus Arroyo Lule, 35, pleaded no contest to a felony count of voluntary manslaughter in the same case. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Nov. 17 in Department P at the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Pomona Branch.

Deputy District Attorney David Barkhurst of the Hardcore Gang Division, who prosecuted the case, said in the early morning of Dec. 24, 2010, Lule drove Mata to rival gang territory in Baldwin Park.

Once there, Mata exited the car and walked up to a house where David Deanda Jr., 31 was standing in the driveway, according to the prosecutor. Mata then fatally shot Deanda in the torso before fleeing the scene, the prosecutor added.

In April 2012, Mata attempted to kill another rival gang member, the prosecutor said. A separate jury found Mata guilty of that crime in a 2015 trial and he was sentenced to 25 years to life in state prison.

The 2012 sentence is in addition to the 86 years to life sentence imposed today.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the El Monte and Baldwin Park police departments.

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.