

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Last of 31 MS-13 Gang Members Sentenced
For Extortion**

The last of 31 MS-13 gang members and associates indicted or charged with operating two extortion rings that mainly targeted food truck owners and a fellow gang member has been sentenced, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

With today's sentencing of a 32-year-old Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang member to 38 years to life in state prison, the combined sentences total more than 560 years in state prison for all 31 gang members, said Deputy District Attorney Mark Inaba. Inaba, along with Deputy District Attorney Dayan Mathai, prosecuted the cases.

Five separate Grand Jury indictments, returned Jan. 28, 2013, charged 24 MS-13 gang members with demanding "rent" from food truck owners operating around Western Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard. The rent or tax collected went from \$30 a week to \$100 a week.

All 24 either pleaded or were convicted by juries of conspiracy and extortion for shaking down food truck owners and operators in Hollywood over a five-year period beginning in July 2007. The 24, who ranged in age from 17 to 63 when they were indicted in January 2013, were sentenced to terms ranging from eight years up to 20 years in state prison.

Today's sentence involved the last of seven MS-13 defendants convicted of extorting a former MS-13 member who was trying to get out of the gang.

The cases were the culmination of multiple investigations launched by the Los Angeles Police Department and other agencies including the District Attorney's Office.

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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.