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FRESNO GANG MEMBER SENTENCED TO LIFE WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE FOR MURDER

On April 21, 2026, Malik Nichols (30, of Fresno), was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole in state prison after being convicted of first-degree murder with a gang-related special circumstance.

The sentence was imposed by the Honorable Judge Michael Idiart of the Fresno County Superior Court. On March 18, 2026, a Fresno County jury found Nichols guilty of all charges. In a separate proceeding held on March 23, 2026, the jury also found true the gang related special circumstance and additional gang enhancements. The Court further found that Nichols had a prior strike conviction for assault with a firearm that was also gang related.

This case stems from two separate shooting incidents in June 2023.

On June 5, 2023, Nichols opened fire on a victim at the Kearney Cooley Apartments in broad daylight. Three days later, on June 8, 2023, Nichols targeted a member of a rival gang near the intersection of Lorena and Geneva in west Fresno. The victim, Ibrahim Muhammad, was struck three times and later died from his injuries at a local hospital.

During the June 8 shooting, an uninvolved woman in the neighborhood was also struck by gunfire. She survived but suffered significant, life-altering injuries as a result of the shooting.

Through the diligent work of the Fresno Police Department's Homicide Unit and the Multi-Agency Gang Enforcement Consortium (MAGEC), Nichols was identified as the suspect

in both shootings. Investigators determined the murder was motivated by gang retaliation, supported by Nichols' statements on social media and while in custody at the Fresno County Jail.

In July 2023, Nichols was arrested in Seattle, Washington, after fleeing the area following the murder. At the time of these offenses, he was on parole and being monitored with an ankle device for a prior assault with a firearm conviction.

This conviction underscores the devastating impact of gang violence in our community and reflects the ongoing commitment of the Fresno County District Attorney's Office and its law enforcement partners to hold violent offenders fully accountable.

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office thanks the Fresno Police Department, particularly Detective Jacob Adney and Detective Jose Garcia, for their dedication and investigative efforts.

This case was successfully prosecuted by Senior Deputy District Attorney Kaitlin Drake of the Homicide Unit, with assistance from Senior District Attorney Investigator Danielle Isaac of the Bureau of Investigations.

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