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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WEST SACRAMENTO MAN SENTENCED
FOR GANG ASSAULT WITH HAMMER**

(Woodland, CA) – February 27, 2013 - Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on Friday, February 22, 2013, the Honorable Stephen L. Mock sentenced Christopher Lee Castillo, 21, to serve twenty six years and eight months in State Prison for his role in an attack on two African-American juveniles in March 2010. A Yolo County jury convicted Castillo on November 16, 2012, for the attack in which Castillo personally struck one of the victims in the head with a hammer.

The two victims and their family had been harassed by the gang members during the two months before the assault. When the two victims went to confront members of the gang, they were ambushed by numerous gang members armed with weapons, and a pit bull. Castillo struck one of the victims in the head with a hammer, creating a deep gash. After the assault the gang members continued to threaten and harass the family causing the family to move twice. Ten suspects were arrested for the crime. Nine of these suspects entered pleas to various charges, leaving Castillo as the tenth and final defendant.

Judge Mock handed down the sentence after conducting a hearing in which he considered a report from probation, the comments of the attorneys and letters from Castillo's friends and family. Among the facts that increased the sentence was that Castillo inflicted "great bodily injury," he personally used a weapon, multiple victims were assaulted, the crime occurred in concert with other gang members and Castillo committed the crime while on felony probation for another gang-related stabbing, a "strike" crime. The District Attorneys office offered Castillo a plea bargain of 16-17 years prior to trial, which Castillo rejected.

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