



**COUNTY OF YOLO**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** May 29, 2009                      Jonathan Raven, Assistant Chief Deputy DA  
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**Convicted Murderer denied parole for 15 years**

**(Woodland, CA)** – May 29, 2009 District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced today that on Wednesday May 27, 2009, Commissioners of the Board of Parole Hearings denied parole to a former UC Davis engineering student Saleh Alalem, age 53, for the maximum term. Alalem will not be eligible for another parole hearing for 15 years. Alalem had been convicted by a jury of first degree murder and assault with a deadly weapon in 1977.

On September 12, 1977 Alalem went to the home of then UC Davis student Khalid Al-Shaibani, age 27 and his wife Sundis Al-Shabani, age 20. The couple and their infant had just returned from vacation in their native country of Iraq. Alalem was invited into their home and after talking with them for a few minutes, he pulled out a gun and shot Khalid three times in the chest killing him and then shot Sundis in the neck while she was holding her infant. Sundis was able to escape and call for help. Alalem turned himself in to the Davis Police Department. Alalem was sentenced to seven years to life for the crimes.

This was Alalem's twelfth parole hearing which was held at Salinas Valley State Prison and was attended via videoconference by Kelli Brooksby of the Yolo County District Attorney's Office. Brooksby argued that the inmate represents a high risk of danger to the community because of his continuing violent behavior while in prison. On May 30, 2007 Alalem was convicted in Monterey Superior Court of the crime of battery on a correctional staff member while in prison and was sentenced to four additional years in state prison.

The Commissioners relied on the recently enacted Marsy's Law which was passed by California voters in November 2008. Marsy's Law, or Proposition 9, amended the California Constitution and increased the maximum term for a parole denial to 15 years. Brooksby was pleased with the result stating, "This inmate is a very dangerous man. Thanks to Marsy's Law, he won't be getting out of prison for a very long time."

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