



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 1, 2022

Abel Echartea Sentenced to 40 Years to Life for Murder

Today, August 1, 2022, Abel Echartea (33, of Fresno) was sentenced to 40 years to life for the second-degree murder of Phillip Ozuna (38, of Fresno), as well as an enhancement for personal use of a firearm causing death. Echartea's sentence was handed down following a jury trial that concluded on June 28, 2022, in the Fresno Superior Court.

Although Echartea was eligible for a reduction in sentence pursuant to SB 81 and Cal. Pen. Code § 1385(c), the sentencing judge determined that the protection of public safety dictated the imposition of the firearm enhancement.

Echartea was arrested by the Fresno Police Department in Marion, Indiana on January 18, 2022. Evidence presented at trial showed that on December 23, 2020, Echartea was at The Parks at Fig Garden Apartments in Fresno when he fired at Phillip Ozuna seven times, killing him.

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office would like to thank the Fresno Police Department Homicide Detectives for their dedication to this case.

The case was successfully prosecuted by Senior Deputy District Attorney Kelly Smith with our Homicide Unit. Mr. Smith was assisted by District Attorney Senior Investigators Virginia Rodriguez, Todd Parsons, and Michael Johns from the Fresno County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations.

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