



Riverside County District Attorney

# CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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## **FOUR MEN ORDERED TO STAND TRIAL IN SHOOTING OF EMPLOYEE AT MORENO VALLEY BUSINESS RESULTING IN PURSUITS TO ORANGE AND LOS ANGELES COUNTIES**

RIVERSIDE – Today, Jan. 17, 2013, a Riverside County Superior Court judge ordered four Los Angeles County men to stand trial for the December 2012 shooting of an employee at a Moreno Valley business.

After listening to testimony at a preliminary hearing that started on Wednesday, Jan. 16 and finished this morning, Jan. 17, 2013, Judge Jean P. Leonard found there was enough evidence for the four defendants to stand trial.

Traevon Cortez Vidaud, DOB 7-1-88; Damine Lavonte Banks, 7-4-82; Jerome Renard Allen Jr., 6-6-89; and Roosevelt Fernandez, 11-30-86, were ordered to return for an information arraignment on Feb. 1, 2013, in Dept. 63 at the Hall of Justice in Riverside.

The four defendants are charged with several felonies including attempted murder and robbery stemming from a shooting at Empire Jewelry & Loan in Moreno Valley on Dec. 12, 2012.

Based on the evidence, it is believed that defendant Fernandez shot and seriously injured the employee at the business. The victim was shot twice in the torso and survived.

The men then fled in a vehicle which was later involved in a pursuit with law enforcement officers that ended in Fullerton and resulted in a lengthy lockdown at Cal State Fullerton. One suspect then fled in another vehicle and was chased by law enforcement officers into the city of Los Angeles. Vidaud, Banks and Allen were arrested following the two pursuits and Fernandez was arrested at a later date.

A preliminary hearing is held for a judge to listen to testimony after which the judge decides if there is enough evidence for a defendant to stand trial and on what charges.

If convicted as now charged, the four men are facing about 37 years to life in prison.

The case, RIF1210976, is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Michael Carney.