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**ARSONIST SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON  
WITHOUT POSSIBILITY OF RELEASE**

SACRAMENTO: United States Attorney John K. Vincent announced today that TRUNG THANH PHAM, 28, of Sacramento was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of release for his role in the January 7, 1997, firebombing of the residence located at 6100 Merry Lane, Carmichael. PHAM pled guilty on April 24, 2002.

The home which PHAM firebombed was occupied by two brothers, a sister, and the sister's three children. Nine-year-old Hien Tran died as a result of the fire caused by the firebombing, and her uncle, Duc Tran, suffered third degree burns over more than 30% of his body. Hien Tran's other uncle, Tri Tran, was also injured when he attempted to rescue the little girl from her burning bedroom.

In June, 1999, Tanh Huu Lam pled guilty to arranging the firebombing of the Carmichael residence. In September, 1999, United States District Court Judge William B. Shubb sentenced Lam to a term of life imprisonment without the possibility of release.

According to court documents, at some time prior to December, 1996, Lam hired PHAM to kill Tri Tran. Lam paid PHAM approximately \$2,000 in cash to kill Tran with the understanding that after Tran was dead Lam would pay PHAM an additional \$5,000. In his effort to kill Tran for Lam, and with Lam's approval, the defendant and his recruited accomplices made two separate and unsuccessful attempts to shoot Tran as Tran was driving home from work.

After these shootings failed to kill Tran, PHAM, with Lam's approval, and with the assistance of two accomplices, set Tran's house on fire at approximately 2:40 a.m. on January 7, 1997. PHAM doused the front porch with gasoline while his accomplices threw firebombs through a front window.

This case was investigated by the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office.

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