

Jackie Lacey

District Attorney
<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Greg Risling
Public Information Officer
213-974-3525
GRisling@da.lacounty.gov

Feb. 4, 2014

Gang Member Convicted in Businessman's Slaying

Juors today convicted a gang member of murder and robbery for the April 2012 slaying of a businessman in South Los Angeles.

A jury of seven men and five women spent less than three hours deliberating before finding Jesus Mendez, 23, guilty of one count each of first-degree murder and second-degree robbery in case BA399348.

Deputy District Attorney Hilary Williams of the Hardcore Gang Division said during closing arguments that Mendez lured and ambushed 27-year-old Jamie Sharif Mohammad Abuawad, who ran a gold buying business, only a block away from where Mendez was living.

Cell phone records showed Mendez called Abuawad four times on the morning of April 19, 2012, the last coming shortly before the murder.

Abuawad was shot three times with a .380-caliber revolver and Mendez made off with \$300 and two cell phones, the prosecutor said. Mendez dropped the phones that were later found nearby.

Sentencing is scheduled for Feb. 11 in Department 134 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. Mendez faces up to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

###

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.