



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MEDIA RELATIONS DIVISION

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Man Pleads To Fatal Beating, Sentenced to 11 Years State Prison

LOS ANGELES – A man who fled to Guatemala for years after fatally beating another man to death with a pipe pleaded no contest today to voluntary manslaughter, the District Attorney's Office announced.

Sergio Giovanni Ruano, 37, was sentenced to 11 years in state prison by Judge Drew Edwards, said Deputy District Attorney Ian Phan. In exchange for his plea, two other counts were dismissed.

Ruano admitted the fatal beating of Jorge Candia Gonzalez, 25 nearly nine years ago. Phan said that in the early morning hours on April 25, 2004, Ruano and the victim began fighting in the 1200 block of West 39th Street. Some witnesses said the victim was armed with a bat and shattered Ruano's car windshield where Ruano's girlfriend was sitting.

Ruano then retrieved a metal pipe and hit Gonzalez several times in the head with it. Gonzalez was taken to a hospital where he died. Ruano then fled to Guatemala, where he was arrested in May 2011. He was extradition to Los Angeles by the FBI on March 30, 2012.

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