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NEWS RELEASE

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Two Gang Members Convicted of Killing Marine on Leave

Two gang members have been convicted in the killing of a 19-year-old Marine found shot inside his vehicle in Los Angeles' Jefferson Park neighborhood in 2016, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

A jury deliberated less than two hours before convicting Oscar Aguilar, 28, and Esau Rios, 31, yesterday afternoon of one count each of first-degree murder and shooting at an occupied motor vehicle. Aguilar also was convicted of one felony count of possession of a firearm by a felon.

Jurors additionally found true allegations that Aguilar personally and intentionally used a handgun in the killing, a principal used a handgun in the commission of the crime and the shooting was committed for the benefit of a criminal street gang.

Sentencing for both defendants and a court trial on allegations that Aguilar had prior felony convictions are scheduled for July 8 in Department 109 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. Aguilar faces a possible maximum sentence of 107 years to life in state prison. Rios faces 50 years to life in prison.

A third defendant, Ricky Valente, 21, pleaded no contest to one count of accessory after the fact in June 2018. He is expected to be placed on three years of formal probation under the terms of a negotiated plea agreement when he is sentenced on June 26 in Department 110 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Deputy District Attorneys Carmelia Mejia and Jeffrey K. Herring of the Hardcore Gang Division prosecuted the case.

On Sept. 16, 2016, Lance Cpl. Carlos Segovia Lopez of Los Angeles was on leave from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton when he saw Aguilar and Rios possibly tampering with vehicles and confronted them. At Rios' direction, Aguilar approached Segovia Lopez, who was sitting in his car at 31st Street and St. Andrews Place, and shot him once in the head, according to court testimony.

Aguilar and Rios were known gang members, according to testimony.

The victim died three days later at a hospital.

All three defendants were residents of the neighborhood where the shooting occurred.

According to the felony complaint, Aguilar was convicted as a juvenile of assault with a deadly weapon with great bodily injury in 2008 and of felony vandalism in 2008, criminal threats in 2011 and possession for transportation or sale of narcotics in 2015.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department, South Bureau Homicide Division.

[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 protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.