

Jackie Lacey

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



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Sarah Ardalani
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

Sept. 22, 2015

Gang Member Sentenced to Death for Double Homicide in Paramount

A 32-year-old man was sentenced yesterday to death for killing two rival gang members in 2007, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Last February, a jury convicted defendant Luis Jesus Rodriguez of two counts of first-degree murder in case TA111998.

Jurors also found true special circumstance allegations that the killings were committed to further the activities of a criminal street gang and that the defendant had previously been convicted of first-degree murder.

Additionally, jurors found true the special allegation that Rodriguez personally and intentionally discharged a firearm, which caused great bodily injury and death.

Deputy District Attorney Danette Gomez of the Hardcore Gang Division said Rodriguez was a documented Paramount Barrio gang member.

On July 28, 2007, Rodriguez armed himself with an AK-47 and had his brother drive him to the neighborhood of a rival gang member, the prosecutor said.

Once in the area, the defendant pulled up in front of a home and began shooting, striking Benjamin Velasco, 19, and Julio Ramirez, 21. Following the shooting, Rodriguez fled the scene. Both victims were taken to the hospital, where they ultimately succumbed to their injuries, the prosecutor said.

Three days later, Rodriguez was arrested in connection with the fatal shooting of victim Salvador Deavila, who was killed on June 24, 2007. Rodriguez was convicted of Deavila's killing in 2008 and sentenced to 50 years to life in state prison in case TA091961.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's 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. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.