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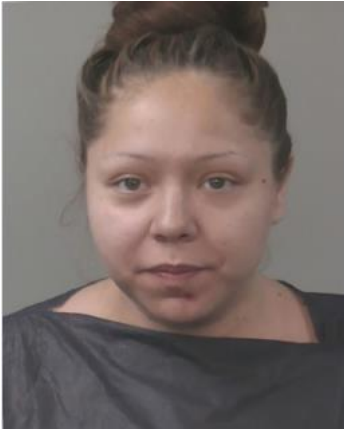
Jury Finds Gonzalez and Barker Guilty of Murdering Victim Outside of Gas Station
People v. Erica Gonzalez and Joseph Barker; Kern County Superior Court Case Number BF189972AB

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a jury verdict in a significant homicide case. On December 18, 2023, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Melanie Ayala, a Kern County jury found Erica Gonzalez guilty of several counts including Second-Degree Murder, Assault with a Semiautomatic Firearm, and Shooting from a Motor Vehicle with true findings on all firearm enhancements. The jury also found Joseph Barker guilty of Second-Degree Murder, Assault with a Semiautomatic Firearm, and an additional count of Attempted Murder with premeditation and deliberation and true findings on all firearm enhancements.

On May 4, 2022, Gonzalez and Barker were parked outside of the On the Go gas station, located at 2501 River Boulevard in Bakersfield. Barker was seated in the driver's seat and Gonzalez was seated in the front passenger seat of a black Chrysler. Angel Bowdey parked her vehicle near the black Chrysler, exited her vehicle, and an argument ensued between both Bowdey and Gonzalez. Bowdey's sister was also present. Subsequently, Barker passed Gonzalez a firearm and Gonzalez pointed the firearm at Bowdey. Following this, Barker exited the black Chrysler and both Gonzalez and Barker shot Bowdey multiple times with Barker shooting in the direction of Bowdey's sister as she fled from the gunfire. Gonzalez and Barker then fled the scene in their black Chrysler. Bowdey was ultimately shot twice and later passed away at Kern Medical Center. Gonzalez and Barker were successfully apprehended shortly after fleeing the scene.

Sentencing is scheduled for January 24, 2024, in Department 3 of the Kern County Superior Court before the honorable John Oglesby. Gonzalez and Barker face life sentences with Barker facing multiple life sentences.

Erica Gonzalez:



Joseph Barker:

