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Wasco Gang Members Convicted of Carjacking and Participating in a Criminal Street Gang
People v. Vidal Gonzalez and Jesus Quintero: Kern County Superior Court Case # SF021817AB

(Shafter) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant verdict today. On November 3, 2025, a Kern County jury found defendants Vidal Gonzalez and Jesus Quintero guilty of carjacking, participation in a criminal street gang, and other related charges. On November 12, 2025, the jury also found it to be true that both Gonzalez and Quintero committed the carjacking for the benefit of a criminal street gang. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Pedro Naveiras.

On January 26, 2025, Gonzalez and Quintero, members of the Varrio Wasco Rifas criminal street gang, approached the victim at a car wash in Wasco. Gonzalez removed a firearm from his waistband and pointed it at the victim before asking the victim if he was affiliated with a gang. Upon finding out that the victim was a gang “drop out” from another gang, Gonzalez advised that he would let the victim live but would take his car. During this altercation, Quintero also swung his fist at the victim to aid Gonzalez in taking the vehicle before both Gonzalez and Quintero fled the scene. Two days later, Gonzalez was found driving the stolen vehicle in Delano when he led officers from the Delano Police Department on a high-speed chase that exceeded 100 mph. The pursuit ended when the vehicle broke down. Gonzalez again attempted to flee officers on foot but was captured. Officers searched Gonzalez and located methamphetamine, a hunting knife, and a stun gun.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “Through the tireless work of several agencies, two violent offenders have been brought to justice and can no longer endanger the public. The District Attorney’s Office will continue to vigorously prosecute gang members who terrorize our communities.”

Sentencing is scheduled for January 14, 2025 before the Honorable Judge Marcos Camacho in the Kern County Superior Court - Shafter. Defendant Vidal Gonzalez faces up to 45 years, 8 months in prison. Defendant Jesus Quintero faces up to 33 years in prison.

Vidal Gonzalez:



Jesus Quintero:

