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Juarez Found Guilty of Wasco Murder
People v. Abel Juarez: Kern County Superior Court Case #BF177055A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction today. On November 12, 2025, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Tacconi, a Kern County jury found Defendant Abel Juarez guilty of First Degree Murder with the use of a firearm, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, and Felon in Possession of Ammunition. This case was retried as a jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict in 2021.

On April 24, 2018, Juarez went to the house of victim Eduardo Salinas because he believed the victim had stolen a bike from him earlier in the day. As soon as Juarez arrived at the victim's Wasco home, Juarez began yelling profanities and calling for the victim to exit his garage and meet him in the driveway. Within minutes of the victim exiting his garage, Juarez shot the victim one time in his chest, resulting in his death. Juarez immediately fled from the residence and was not located until the following day. During the morning of April 25, 2018, detectives attempted to apprehend Juarez at which point he engaged in a stand-off situation for over an hour. Juarez never surrendered to law enforcement and was ultimately captured while he was attempting to flee through a back alley. Two witnesses at the scene identified Juarez as the shooter.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "This deliberate act demonstrated a profound disregard for the life of another. It's been several years fighting for the justice of Eduardo Salinas and today, we're pleased to announce that it's been achieved."

Sentencing is scheduled for December 16, 2025 in Department 5 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge Eric Bradshaw. Juarez faces 75 years to life in prison.

Abel Juarez:

