



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KENNETH M. RUSSELL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

January 23, 2026
MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
DDA Cole Sherman
(661) 868-2350

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by CJZ
Press Release #26-5

Multiple First-Degree Murder and Attempted Murder Convictions for Gang-Related Crime Spree
People v. Jorge Flores and Carlos Trejo: Kern County Superior Court Case BF185195AB

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant verdict today. On January 22, 2026, a Kern County jury found Jorge Flores and Carlos Trejo guilty of the first-degree murders of Vladimir Sanchez and Scottie Tripp along with special circumstances of committing the murders in furtherance of a criminal street gang and by lying in wait. The jury also found both defendants guilty of attempting to murder three other victims during this crime spree that involved three separate shootings at three different locations in Bakersfield on January 15th and 16th, 2021. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Cole Sherman.

At about 10:30 p.m. on January 15, 2021, Flores and Trejo, who were active participants in the Norteno criminal street gang, drove in the area of Cottonwood Road and Cannon Ave looking for a potential target. Flores drove up to a man he spotted riding a bicycle. From the passenger seat, Trejo asked the victim, “where are you from?”, and then fired multiple shots at the man, hitting him in his stomach and left arm. Flores drove them away from the crime scene in his white Lexus sedan. The victim was rushed to Kern Medical where he received life-saving care for his wounds.

Thirteen minutes after fleeing Cannon Ave, Flores drove his vehicle to the area of East Planz Road and Meeks Ave and drove past a parked vehicle containing Vladimir Sanchez in the driver seat and another male victim seated in the passenger seat. After seeing potential targets, Flores circled back and approached the victims’ parked vehicle from behind. Upon pulling even with the victims’ car, Trejo fired nine rounds directly at Sanchez and the other male victim, hitting them both. Sanchez suffered multiple gunshot wounds and succumbed to his injuries at the scene. The second victim was taken to Kern Medical where he received life-saving care for his gunshot wounds. Flores and Trejo fled the area at about 10:46 p.m. in Flores’ white Lexus.

On January 16, 2021, at about 5:15 a.m., Flores and Trejo drove to the area of Belle Terrace and Taylor Street and were walking outside an apartment complex looking for potential targets. The defendants observed Scottie Tripp. The victims were in their vehicle, warming up the engine, before heading to work.

Realizing that he had forgotten something, Scottie Tripp ran back into his apartment while his brother remained in their parked car. Flores and Trejo concealed themselves behind a block wall and waited for Scottie Tripp to reemerge. Tripp returned to the parking lot and as he was walking toward his parked car, Flores and Trejo approached and Trejo asked, “where are you from?” Before Scottie Tripp could respond or react, Trejo fired seven rounds directly at Scottie, killing him immediately. Flores and Trejo then ran away on foot and Scottie Tripp’s brother pursued them in his vehicle. Trejo stopped running and fired five additional gunshots at the brother and his vehicle, striking the car. Flores and Trejo then fled the area in Flores’ white Lexus and drove back to Trejo’s residence.

Detectives from the Bakersfield Police Department conducted the investigation. In April 2021, additional evidence linked the defendants to the crime scene. Investigators ultimately connected the defendants to the same vehicle used at all three crime scenes and confirmed their locations at the time of the murders, leading to their arrest.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “Flores and Trejo acted with clear intent to commit murder as part of a crime spree carried out for the benefit of their street gang. Two lives were lost, and three others were permanently altered due to this senseless act of violence. These crimes demand serious consequences, and we will pursue severe punishment to ensure these individuals can no longer harm our community.”

Sentencing is scheduled for February 23, 2026, before the Honorable Judith K. Dulcich in Department 2 of the Kern County Superior Court. Flores and Trejo each face life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Jorge Flores:



Carlos Trejo:

