



**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

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:

DDA: Richard Choi
(661) 978-4449

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction in a gang homicide case. On September 18, 2019, a Kern County jury convicted Victor Nunez and Fernando Rojas of First Degree Murder with special circumstances, along with other firearm and gang charges. Both Nunez and Rojas are members of the Varrio Chicos Lamont criminal street gang. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Richard Choi under Kern County Superior Court case BF 171239 A/B.

In the early morning hours of February 3, 2018, Kern County Sheriff Deputies heard multiple gunshots in the area of S. Union Avenue and E. Fairview Road, in Bakersfield. Deputies responded to the area and found Brandon Ellington, age 26, suffering from a single gunshot wound to his chest in the parking lot of the Union Market. 9mm shell casings were found nearby. Investigation revealed that Mr. Ellington was assaulted near an internet casino by an unknown individual and was chased away by a group which included the defendants. After the victim fled the group, defendant Rojas ran back to his silver BMW sedan and defendant Nunez got into the same vehicle and gave chase to Mr. Ellington. Defendant Rojas stopped and parked the car near Mr. Ellington, allowing defendant Nunez to get out of the vehicle. Defendant Nunez chased Mr. Ellington while shooting at him five times. After the shooting, Nunez ran back to the awaiting vehicle and both defendants fled the area.

On February 9, 2018, Kern County Sheriff Deputies located defendant Rojas at the same internet casino along with the silver BMW sedan used the night of the homicide. Later that same day, defendant Nunez was caught with a loaded 9mm semi-automatic handgun. The Kern Regional Crime Lab confirmed that the firearm found on Nunez was the same handgun used in the murder.

Advised of the verdict, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented that "Gang violence accounts for a majority of Kern County's homicides. We will not tolerate violence on our streets and will continue our efforts to prosecute our community's most violent offenders and drive down violent crime rates."

The sentencing date is set for October 15, 2019. Both Victor Nunez and Fernando Rojas face a sentence of life without the possibility of parole.

Victor Nunez



Fernando Rojas

