



**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

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

July 12, 2021

MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:

DDA Larry L. Fields
(661) 868-2340

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by JAK
Press Release #21-48

Re: Jury Trial Murder Conviction: Manuel Ruiz: BF 181239A&B

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a guilty verdict in a murder case today. On July 12, 2021 a Kern County Jury found defendant, Manuel Ruiz, guilty of second-degree murder along with an allegation that he personally discharged of a firearm in the commission of the murder. He faces a possible sentence of 15 to life, plus 25 to life for killing with a firearm.

On May 27, 2020, the Bakersfield Police Department responded to the 7000 block of Bandolero Way in northwest Bakersfield for a reported shooting. Upon arrival officers found Duran McDowell, age 28, suffering from a single gunshot wound to his chest. A homicide investigation revealed that the homeowner of the residence on Bandolero Way had unlawfully evicted defendants from the residence on May 26, 2020. The defendants went back to the residence the following day armed with a large caliber handgun. Mr. McDowell was defending the homeowner from an apparent attack by the driver, Douglas Hutchison. As the defendants were leaving in their pickup truck, Ruiz fired a single shot at McDowell who was standing at the front of the garage. The shot struck McDowell, killing him.

Last week the same jury found the driver, Douglas Hutchison, not guilty of aiding and abetting the killing.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating: "The use of extra judicial, self-help eviction during the COVID pandemic is not acceptable, but the use of gun violence as retaliation, resulting in the murder of third party not involved in the dispute will not go unpunished."

Ruiz is scheduled to be sentenced on August 18th 2021 in Department 4 before the Honorable Judge Charles Brehmer. Ruiz faces a sentence of up to 40 years to life in prison as a result of the conviction.