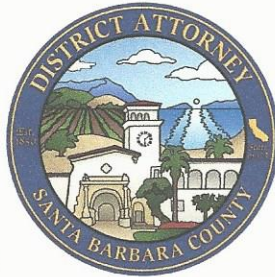


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 10-276

RELEASE NUMBER

December 3, 2014

RELEASE DATE

Joyce E. Dudley

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Hans Almgren, Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT (805) 568-2313

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

December 3, 2014

EASTSIDE / SURENO GANG MEMBER SENTENCED

RE: *The People of the State of California v. Erick Garcia Roman; Case Number 1404142*

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced that on December 2, 2014, Erick Garcia Roman was sentenced to 40 years to life having been found guilty on September 19, 2014, of attempted murder with pre-meditation and deliberation for the benefit of the Eastside/Sureno criminal street gang.

Mr. Roman had previously been convicted of a separate attempted murder for the benefit of the Eastside Criminal street gang and was sentenced to 17 years in the state prison in 2009 for crimes that were committed in 2007. On December 2, 2014, the Honorable Judge Brian E. Hill resentedenced Mr. Roman to a combined sentence of 57 years to life on both cases respectively.

On June 28, 2007, Erick Garcia Roman, Ricardo Manuel Nava, and Omar Ramos attacked a rival Westside criminal street gang member on the 600 block of Del Monte Avenue in Santa Barbara with knives, bottles and blunt instruments for the benefit of the Eastside criminal street gang. The victim was found on the street bleeding profusely from multiple stab wounds, and was struggling to breathe when found by Santa Barbara Police Department Officers. Mr. Roman was convicted by conditional plea of attempted murder, a gang enhancement as a violent felony, and to being an active participant in the Eastside criminal street gang.

On August 18, 2011, Mr. Roman, while in the custody of the Santa Barbara County Jail, defeated the locking mechanism on his cell door, and, armed with a razor blade, attacked the inmate victim without provocation. Mr. Roman ran towards the inmate victim, slashing him with a series of blows to the head, face, and upper torso. The inmate victim tried to fight back in self-defense which was captured on video by the Sheriff. The inmate victim received lacerations to his head and neck. Mr. Roman was convicted at jury trial of willful, deliberate, and pre-meditated attempted murder; assault by means of force likely to produce great bodily injury; custodial possession of a weapon, a razor blade; and, assault with personal use of a deadly weapon, a razor blade. All felonies were found to have been committed for the benefit of the Eastside/Sureno criminal street gang to further their primary activities of assaults with deadly weapons.

"This extremely successful prosecution by Senior Deputy District Attorney Hans Almgren was a direct result of the thorough investigations conducted by our local law enforcement officers and custody deputies. We expect it will have a chilling effect on both gang violence on our streets and in our jails."

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