

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



DA 08-374

RELEASE NUMBER

August 3, 2016

RELEASE DATE

*Joyce E. Dudley*

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Jennifer Karapetian, Deputy District Attorney

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\*\*\*\*\* **PRESS RELEASE** \*\*\*\*\*

August 3, 2016

**Re: *People v. Wilfredo Rodriguez Chicas*; Case No. 1455907**

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that Wilfredo Rodriguez Chicas pled guilty to the willful, premeditated, and deliberate murder of Alejandro Diaz Alvarez, in violation of Penal Code section 187, first degree. The defendant also admitted to personally and intentionally discharging a firearm causing great bodily injury to Mr. Alvarez, in violation of Penal Code section 12022.53(d).

In the early morning of March 16, 2015, Mr. Alvarez was warming up his vehicle, getting ready to go to work. The defendant was hiding nearby in the bushes, watching and waiting for an opportunity to attack Mr. Alvarez. When the defendant had the chance, he ambushed Mr. Alvarez in the parking lot of Mr. Alvarez's apartment complex. The defendant then shot Mr. Alvarez with a handgun. As a result, Mr. Alvarez died on the scene.

District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley stated, "This early guilty plea to first degree murder is a result of the thorough investigation by the Santa Maria Police Department, which in turn led to providing comfort for the victim's family as they try to recover from this despicable act of cowardliness and violence."

The defendant will be sentenced by the Honorable Gustavo Lavayen on August 10, 2016, in Department 8 of the Superior Court in Santa Maria. At that time, the defendant will receive a sentence of 50 years to life in state prison.

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