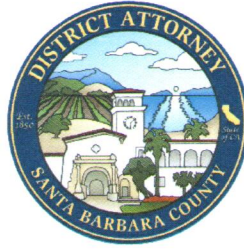


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 07-370

RELEASE NUMBER

July 11, 2016

RELEASE DATE

Joyce E. Dudley

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Ann Bramsen, Senior Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT (805) 346-1468

* * * * * P R E S S R E L E A S E * * * * *

July 11, 2016

Re: *Grand Jury Indictments*

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley and Santa Maria Police Chief Ralph Martin announced today that the Santa Barbara Criminal Grand Jury issued two separate indictments on July 8, 2016. The Grand Jury issued one indictment against Jose Balmore Saravia Lainez, Jose Ricardo Saravia Lainez, Marcos Manuel Sanchez Torres, Tranquilino Robles Morales, Juan Carlos Lozano Membreno, Jose Narcisco Escobar Hernandez, Luis German Mejia Orellana, Jose Juan Sanchez Torres, Juan Carlos Urbina Serrano, Olvin Serrano, Emedalio Mejia Bonilla, and Ezequiel Escalante-Rivera. The Indictment contains 50 felony counts that cover a period of time from January 2013 through March 2016, and includes 10 deceased victims and 14 living victims. The charges include 10 counts of First Degree Murder, in violation of Penal Code section 187, with special circumstances of Multiple Murder, Lying In Wait, MS-13 Criminal Street Gang and on one count there is a special circumstance of Torture, in violation of Penal Code section 190.2. They also include special allegations of Principal Use of a Firearm Causing Death in violation of Penal Code section 12022.53(e). In addition, there are 14 counts of Conspiracy to Commit Murder in violation of Penal Code section 182/187, 5 counts of Attempted Murder in violation of Penal Code section 664/187, 19 counts of Criminal Street Gang Conspiracy in violation of Penal Code section 182.5, 1 count of Witness Intimidation by Force in violation of Penal Code section 136.1(c) and 1 count of Conspiracy to Commit Street Terrorism in violation of Penal Code section 182/186.22(a).

On the counts that allege First Degree Murder with Special Circumstances pursuant to Penal Code section 190.2, the District Attorney has chosen to seek a sentence of life without the possibility of parole, rather than seek death.

The Grand Jury issued a second indictment against five additional people. Jose Eleuteria Mejia Orellana, Jose Francisco Mejia Orellana, Jose Wilfredo Abarca Soriano, Rafael Lainez Castro and Mayra Ortega are charged in a 7 count indictment. The indictment charges 4 counts of Conspiracy to Commit Murder in violation of Penal Code section 182/187 with the special allegation of for the benefit of the MS-13 Criminal Street Gang in violation of Penal Code section 186.22(b). In addition, there is 1 count of Conspiracy to Commit Street Terrorism in violation of Penal Code section 182/186.22(a) and 1 count of Criminal Street Gang Conspiracy in violation of Penal Code section 182.5. Finally, Mayra Ortega is charged with Possession of a Concealed Firearm in violation of Penal Code section 25400(a) with the Criminal Street Gang penalty provision in violation of Penal Code section 186.22(d).

The defendants will be arraigned on July 11, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. in Dept. 9, in Santa Maria.

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