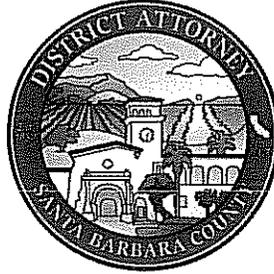


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 05-167
RELEASE NUMBER
May 23, 2013
RELEASE DATE
Joyce E. Dudley
APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Joyce E. Dudley, District Attorney
CONTACT PERSON (805) 568-2300

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

May 23, 2013

Re: Ramon Maldonado, et al.

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that the Grand Jury handed down indictments against nine defendants for the torture and murder of Anthony Ibarra on March 17 and 18, 2013. The Grand Jury indicted Ramon Maldonado, Reyes Gonzales, Jr., Santos Saucedo, David Maldonado, Robert Sosa, Anthony Solis, Verenisa Aviles, Ramon Maldonado, Jr., and Jason Castillo for murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Ramon Maldonado, Reyes Gonzales, Jr., Santos Saucedo, David Maldonado, Robert Sosa, Anthony Solis, and Jason Castillo were also indicted for the special allegations of lying in wait, torture, kidnap, and for committing the crimes in furtherance of a criminal street gang. In addition, Ramon Maldonado was indicted for witness intimidation with the gang enhancement. Carmen Cardenas and Pedro Torres were also indicted for accessory after the fact to murder with the gang enhancement.

Ramon Maldonado, Reyes Gonzales, Jr., Santos Saucedo, David Maldonado, Robert Sosa, Anthony Solis, and Jason Castillo all face a possible sentence of life without the possibility of parole if convicted of the charges.

Ramon Maldonado, Jr. and Verenisa Aviles face a possible sentence of 25 years to life if convicted. Carmen Cardenas faces a maximum sentence of seven years and Pedro Torres faces a maximum sentence of ten years.

District Attorney Dudley considered the underlying facts and factors of this case in deciding not to seek the death penalty. Those factors included the prior criminal history of the defendants, their ages, and their relationship to Anthony Ibarra. Additionally, she considered the fact that life without the possibility of parole is a significant punishment and that in cases where the death penalty is imposed, it is rarely executed causing the victim's families to be denied any sense of closure; and, instead be subjected to decades of appeals and mounting frustration.

The defendants will be arraigned today, May 23, 2013, in Dept. 9, at 8:30 a.m., in Santa Maria. District Attorney Joyce Dudley will be available after the arraignment, at approximately 9:45 a.m., to answer any questions.

* * * * *

□ SANTA BARBARA OFFICE
1112 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2300
Fax: (805) 568-2453

□ SANTA MARIA OFFICE
312-D East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 346-7540
Fax: (805) 346-7588

□ LOMPOC OFFICE
115 Civic Center Plaza
Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 737-7760
Fax: (805) 737-7732