



NEWS RELEASE

January 22, 2014
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Man Convicted and Sentenced to Life in Prison in Shooting Death

Demetrius Santiago Trujillo, DOB 07/31/77, was sentenced to life in prison without parole Wednesday after he was convicted of first-degree murder in the shooting death of Christopher Garduno.

An Adams County District Court jury deliberated less than two hours Wednesday before reaching its verdict. The case went to immediate sentencing before Adams County District Judge Jill Ellyn Straus.

Garduno, 38, was found dead in a locked vehicle on Sept. 3, 2012 in the parking lot of the Village by the Park apartment complex at 10701 Pecos Street in Northglenn. He had been shot in the back of the head with a .22 revolver.

According to evidence presented during the trial, both men were members of the GKI (Gallant Knights Insane) gang and a gang leader had put a "hit" on Garduno. Several witnesses testified that Trujillo had been making threats that he was going to kill Garduno.

On Sept 2, 2012, Trujillo, Garduno and Trujillo's girlfriend, Chelsee Smith, left together in Garduno's vehicle, with Smith driving. Smith testified that Garduno was sitting in the front passenger seat with Trujillo sitting behind him in the back seat when suddenly she heard a gunshot and saw that Garduno had been shot.

Trujillo also faces charges of solicitation of first-degree murder, victim retaliation and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder relating to Chelsee Smith. A trial date will be set for those charges on Jan. 29.

"This was an execution by a cold-blooded killer," said District Attorney Dave Young. "I hope that the family can take some comfort from this verdict. Our prosecution team, David Goddard and David Blackett, did an excellent job trying this case. I also want to thank the jury for its hard work in this case and rendering such a swift verdict. The community is safer now that the defendant will spend his life behind bars."

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