



ROD PACHECO  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

OFFICE OF  
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT: John Hall, PIO**  
**(951) 955-8662**

**\*NEWS RELEASE\***

## **THREE INDIO GANG MEMBERS CONVICTED OF MURDER**

INDIO – Today, Feb. 11, 2010, jurors found three violent Indio gang members guilty of a 2006 murder.

Victor Roman Garcia, DOB: 9-25-75; Roberto Rodriguez, DOB: 12-8-84; and Armando Zabalza, DOB: 5-16-86, all of Indio, were convicted of murder, attempted murder, and assault with a firearm. Jurors also found that the crimes were all committed for the benefit of a criminal street gang. A fourth defendant, Juan Manuel Tagle, was acquitted on the same counts.

The three gang members were convicted of murdering Marcos Esqueda Jr. on March 16, 2006.

Esqueda drove into the defendants' claimed gang territory that day to buy illegal drugs. The victim remained in the vehicle as his friend approached a house to purchase the drugs. As Esqueda waited in the vehicle, the defendants approached and demanded money. He attempted to flee by driving his car in reverse but was shot and killed. His friend fled the area when the gunfire began and was not injured.

The case, INF055034, was prosecuted by Supervising Deputy District Attorney Rosalind Miller and Deputy District Attorney Victoria Cameron.

"This gang has entrenched itself in criminal activities in Indio for decades," Miller said. "This conviction sends a clear message that gang members committing violent crimes will face severe consequences in Riverside County."

The three men will return to Dept. 1A at the Indio courthouse at 9 a.m. on April 2, 2010, to be sentenced by Judge John J. Ryan.

Each of the men faces life in prison without the possibility of parole.

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4075 Main Street - Riverside CA, 92501  
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