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**DISTRICT ATTORNEY JEFFREY ROSELL ANNOUNCES CONVICTIONS IN 2014 DOUBLE
HOMICIDE**

District Attorney Jeffrey Rosell announced today that the final two defendants from a deadly shooting which occurred in the City of Watsonville on October 10, 2014, have been convicted.

Marcos Robles has plead guilty to two counts of first-degree murder, firearms enhancements, gang allegations, felony assault, and conspiracy to commit murder, for his role in the murders of Ramon Rendon and Jaelyn Zavala on 10/10/14. He will be sentenced to 100 years to life in prison on December 2, 2021.

Robles was one of 8 defendants charged in the case. He and the other co-defendants, all Norteño gang members, conspired to kill a perceived rival gang member who was living at the Valley Inn Motel in Watsonville. He and Michael Escobar put on body armor, concealed their faces, and snuck up behind the rivals and then opened fire. They shot more than 20 rounds. Mr. Robles shot Mr. Rendon in the back 10 times. Mr. Rendon died at the scene. Mr. Escobar, in his effort to kill Mr. Rendon, fired numerous rounds as well. One of those bullets went into the office of the Fish House restaurant and hit and killed 4-year-old Jaelyn Zavala. Michael Escobar was arrested while fleeing from the scene, but Mr. Robles managed to escape. He fled to Mexico a short time later, and was eventually arrested in Guadalajara, Mexico in October 2015.

Brandon Ruiz-Martinez plead guilty to two counts of voluntary manslaughter and gang charges, related to his involvement in the murders of Jaelyn Zavala and Ramon Rendon, in 2014, as well as his involvement in the killing of Marco Ortega on 2/15/13. Mr. Ortega was approached by four Norteño gang members and was shot multiple times while at a soccer game at Watsonville High School. He later died from his injuries. The case went cold due to lack of investigative leads. Investigators from the Watsonville Police Department along with members of the District Attorney's office continued the investigation over the next several years, eventually developing information about Ruiz-Martinez's involvement. Ruiz-Martinez will be sentenced to 25 years in prison for his role in the killings.

Michael Escobar went to trial in 2019 and was convicted on all charges. He was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

Assistant District Attorney Johanna Schonfield prosecuted the cases for the District Attorney's Office. "The murders carried out on the night of October 10, 2014, were some of the most cold and calculated killings I have ever seen. The loss and devastation that these defendants caused on this community is unspeakable. I am grateful that justice has finally been served for the victims and their families and can only hope that these guilty pleas bring them some closure," said Schonfield.

“Members of the Watsonville Police Department, the District Attorney’s Office, and the FBI worked tirelessly to solve this case and to locate and arrest all of those involved. The guilty pleas of Robles and Ruiz-Martinez are a testament to the extraordinary efforts of law enforcement to bring justice to the victims,” said District Attorney Jeff Rosell.