



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
Office of the District Attorney  
Twelfth Judicial District

Scot D. Key  
District Attorney

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 6, 2022

**ROBERT CHAVEZ SENTENCED TO TWO CONSECUTIVE LIFE IMPRISONMENT TERMS FOR 2009 DOUBLE HOMICIDE**

Twelfth Judicial District Attorney, Scot D. Key, announces that a Sentencing was completed on Defendant, Robert Chavez, age 50, of Alamogordo, New Mexico. On June 2, 2022, Robert Chavez was sentenced to two consecutive life imprisonment terms to be served in the New Mexico Department of Corrections, after being convicted of two counts of First-Degree Murder (Willful and Deliberate), on May 24, 2022.

The Otero County Jury returned a guilty verdict for two cold case homicides from July 5, 2009. Robert Chavez was found guilty of directing other members of the 'AZ Boys' drug trafficking organization, to murder Max Griego Jr. and Mary Hudson Gutierrez. This trial was the culmination of a lengthy, circuitous investigation involving the AZ Boys and their drug trafficking organization that resulted in at least three murders.

The murders of Griego Jr. and Hudson Gutierrez occurred at approximately 5:30 A.M., on July 5, 2009, when one of Mary's daughters was awakened by two gunshots. Mary and Max had been shot in the head by single bullets from the same .45 caliber gun. The teenage daughter saw two men dressed in dark clothing leave the house and get into the passenger side of a silver-colored vehicle in the driveway of their Montlake home. The observation meant that there had to have been a driver as well. The teenager immediately called 911 and the Alamogordo Police Department began their investigation. While initial leads were followed, the case went cold until another murder occurred on Hamilton Road on November 1, 2011. Deputies and fire units were dispatched to a car fire that revealed a body within. The investigation revealed Matias Loza was in the location of the fire and he appeared to be involved in the fire and possibly the death. The body was later identified as Richard Valdez.

Another investigation by local authorities revealed the AZ Boys were responsible for the murder of Richard Valdez, the son-in-law to Joe Chavez Jr.. Indictments were handed down for this murder and Arson. Robert Chavez, Joe Chavez Jr., and Matias Loza were all indicted and subsequently convicted. During the investigation of the Valdez murder, the Otero County Narcotics Enforcement Unit culminated their separate investigation of drug trafficking activity and were about to indict the organization for a large-scale narcotic smuggling operation from Phoenix, Arizona to Alamogordo, New Mexico. Multiple Indictments were returned by the Grand Jury,

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including Racketeering and Money Laundering. Robert Chavez, Joe Chavez Jr., Matias Loza and others were indicted in May of 2012.

Information from those investigations led officers to gain important additional information regarding the unsolved murders from 2009. In fact, two of those persons indicted provided needed corroborating details of the double homicide of Griego and Hudson Gutierrez.

The Twelfth Judicial District Attorney's Office Investigations Unit learned that Robert Chavez had rented a vehicle from Enterprise at the Phoenix, Arizona airport on July 3, 2009, which was paid for by Robert Chavez through a credit card transaction. More corroborating information proved that four persons traveled from Phoenix, Arizona with the intent to kill Max and Mary. On January 8, 2019, Indictments were filed against Robert Chavez, Joe Chavez Jr., and Matias Loza for the double homicides.

In 2013 and 2014 Robert Chavez, Joe Chavez Jr, and Matias Loza were convicted of Drug Trafficking and Racketeering in separate jury trials, to which, Robert Chavez received a 36-year sentence. In 2019, he was convicted of the murder of Richard Valdez, and he received a life plus 21-year sentence to run consecutive to his drug trafficking case.

Loza was being tried in the Valdez murder when he pled guilty to both the Valdez murder and the double homicide of Griego Jr. and Hudson Gutierrez. He was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

Joe Chavez Jr. also pled to the double homicide. He is serving 48 years for the drug trafficking convictions, followed by life plus 15 years for the Valdez murder and the double homicide of Griego and Hudson Gutierrez.

A Sentencing Hearing was completed on Robert Chavez on June 2, 2022. The Honorable Chief Judge, Angie K. Schneider, sentenced Chavez to two consecutive life terms as to count one and count two of First-Degree Murder (Willful and Deliberate), to be served consecutive to the Drug Trafficking convictions and the Valdez murder conviction.

District Attorney, Scot D. Key, commented that the enormity and scope of the investigations along with the brutality of the murders was something that this community has never seen before. "For 13 years we have been waiting for justice and perhaps we have closed the book on the AZ Boys." Key expressed gratitude for the relentless investigation and prosecution of these matters. The Alamogordo Police Department, Otero County Sheriff's Office, Narcotics Enforcement Unit, and the Twelfth Judicial District Attorney's Office Investigations Unit, should all be recognized.

This case was prosecuted by Twelfth Judicial District Attorney, Scot D. Key, Chief Deputy District Attorney, RoxeAnne B. Esquibel, and Deputy District Attorney, Marcus J. Blais.

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