

STEVEN GONZALEZ FOUND GUILTY OF 2ND DEGREE MURDER, TAMPERING WITH EVIDENCE, FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM, POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, AND POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA.

Twelfth Judicial District Attorney, Scot D. Key, announces on March 22, 2023, an Otero County Jury found Steven Gonzalez, guilty of 2nd degree murder, tampering with evidence, felon in possession of a firearm, possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia after a three-day jury trial before the Honorable Steven Blankinship. The jury deliberated for approximately two hours before delivering their guilty verdicts.

On September 25, 2020, the Alamogordo Police Department responded to an address in the 700 block of Post Avenue in reference to suspicious items located in a house they had previously responded to.

Upon arrival at the residence, officers located containers on the kitchen counter containing what appeared to be blood.

A search warrant was later applied for and located inside the residence were several five-gallon buckets containing body parts.

Through the investigation it was learned Steven Gonzalez shot Eddie Artiaga Jr. once in the head with a .22, then proceeded to painstakingly dismembering the body of Mr. Artiaga Jr. Gonzalez then placed all the body parts, organs, and blood in five-gallon buckets and containers which he stored in his home on Post Avenue.

During the autopsy of Eddie Artiaga Jr., it was learned through Doctors from the Office of the Medical Investigators Office, Eddie Artiaga Jr's body was eviscerated, dismembered, decapitated, and disarticulated.

Gonzalez faces 41 years in prison at a sentencing hearing expected to occur later this year.

This case was prosecuted by Twelfth Judicial District Attorney, Scot D. Key and was investigated by the 12th Judicial Major Crimes Unit which consists of Investigators from the Alamogordo Police Department, Ruidoso Police Department, Otero County Sheriff's Office, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and the 12th Judicial District Attorney's Office and assistance from the New Mexico State Police Crime Scene Team.

