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Press Advisory

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Gaithersburg Man Found Guilty by Prince George's County Jury in
Attempted Murder, Involuntary Manslaughter in Screwdriver Stabbing of 2 Maryland Men
Eduardo Escobar Martinez, MS-13 Gang Member, Faces Ninety Years in Prison

Today, Prince George's County State's Attorney Glenn F. Ivey announced that a Prince George's County Jury found Eduardo Escobar Martinez, 18, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, guilty late yesterday of Attempted 2nd Degree Attempted Murder (30 Years), Involuntary Manslaughter (10 Years) and two counts of 1st Degree Assault (25 Years x 2 counts) in the death of Carlos Humberto Castro Ventura, 18 of Silver Spring and the severe injury of Santos Mejicanos 28 of Langley Park. The Defendant faces 90 years in prison. The jury deliberated nearly 8 hours to reach its verdict.

The verdict stems from the September 9, 2006 incident where according to police reports:

At approximately 12:30 AM Police and Fire Departments responded to the 8100 block of 15th Ave., Langley Park for a report of two men who had been assaulted. Upon arriving on the scene, officers and EMS personnel located two victims who had been beaten and stabbed multiple times (later determined to be 44 times with a screwdriver according to the autopsy). The first victim, Carlos Humberto Castro-Ventura was found unconscious laying in the area of 15th Avenue and Kanawha Street. He was transported to Medstar where he was pronounced dead. A second victim, Santos Mejicanos was found stabbed and beaten. He was taken to a local area hospital, treated and released. Witnesses at the scene indicated that the Defendant yelled "Mara-Salvatrucha" or MS-13 prior to the attack. The surviving victim also identified the suspect in a police line up and remembered a specific tattoo on the Defendant's wrist. Mejicanos also said the weapon used was a black screwdriver, consistent with the Medical Examiner's report and witness accounts. After further investigation the Defendant was arrested on September 14, 2007 at his residence. An unnamed co-defendant is cooperating with police, prosecutors and other authorities.

"This case is a really heinous example of gang violence. The jury's decision reflects the community's desire to send a strong message about gang activity. Mr. Gessesse Teferi, Assistant State's Attorney of the Violent Crimes Unit worked hard to convict this cold hearted killer. It is good that this defendant will be held accountable for this extreme stabbing. We hope for a strong sentence appropriate to the level of this attack," commented State's Attorney Glenn F. Ivey.

Judge Michele D. Hotten set the sentencing hearing for July 20, 2007.

If you have further questions or need more information please call Ramon V. Korionoff in the State's Attorney's Office.

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