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CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

MURDER TRIAL FOR FOUR INDIO GANG MEMBERS SET TO BEGIN

INDIO, CA. – Opening statements in the case of four Indio gang members charged with a murder during the commission of a robbery and for the benefit of a criminal street gang will begin tomorrow, January 13, 2009, at 9 A.M. in Dept. 1A of the Indio courthouse.

Victor Garcia (DOB: 09/25/75), Roberto Rodriguez (DOB: 12/08/84), Juan Tagle (DOB: 02/03/85) and Armando Zabalza (DOB: 05/16/86) are each charged with the March 16, 2006, murder of Marcos Esqueda Jr.

On that date, the victim drove into the defendants' claimed gang territory in Indio to purchase drugs. The victim remained in the vehicle as his friend approached a house to purchase the drugs. As the victim waited in the vehicle, the four 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, is being prosecuted by Supervising Deputy District Attorney Rosalind Miller and Deputy District Attorney Victoria Cameron.

All four defendants face life in prison without the possibility of parole.

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