



Riverside County District Attorney

# NEWS RELEASE

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## LAKE ELSINORE MAN CONVICTED OF MURDER IN GRAFFITI-RELATED STABBING

MURRIETA – Late afternoon on Thursday, May 6, 2010, a Riverside County jury convicted a 21-year-old Lake Elsinore man of a 2008 murder.

Robert Villalobos was found guilty of first-degree murder with an enhancement of using a knife during the murder. Villalobos faces up to 26 years to life in prison when he returns to the Southwest Justice Center on July 23, 2010, to be sentenced.

Villalobos stabbed the victim, George Hernandez, on Aug. 28, 2008, outside a home on Torn Ranch Road in Lake Elsinore.

The victim and some friends were hanging out at a mutual friend's house. The mailbox at that home had previously been "tagged" by a local tagging crew known as Out Causing Panic, or OCP. After covering up the graffiti on the mailbox, Hernandez and his friends went to another friend's home on Torn Ranch Road. Outside that home, a fight broke out involving several people – including Hernandez and Villalobos. During the altercation, Hernandez was stabbed in the back.

The subsequent murder investigation revealed that Villalobos was the only one seen with a knife before the fight and Villalobos was the only one involved who fled. He was arrested nearly three months later in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The case, SWF026253, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Sam Kaloustian of the Gang Unit.

"This was a very difficult and complicated case based solely on circumstantial evidence; we had no eyewitnesses to the murder," Kaloustian said. "The jury had the difficult challenge of piecing the puzzle together step by step and they did that, ultimately coming to the right conclusion."

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