



Riverside County District Attorney

# NEWS RELEASE

ROD PACHECO  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Michael Jeandron  
Public Information Officer  
Contact: 951.955.9215

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## TWO CONVICTED OF ROBBERY SPREE GET DECADES IN PRISON

INDIO, CA: Today, a Riverside County judge sentenced two men, Raul Pardo Avina and George Gomez Jr., each to serve several decades in prison for going on an armed robbery spree across the Coachella Valley from April to June 2006.

Avina, of Indio, was sentenced to serve 91 years while Gomez, of Coachella, was sentenced to 59 years and 4 months in prison. The men, both 35, were also ordered to pay approximately \$10,000 in restitution to their victims.

On January 4, 2010, a Riverside County jury convicted the defendants of dozens of felony counts of robbery and attempted robbery. Avina was convicted of 30 counts, while Gomez was convicted of 27. The jury also found true enhancements on both men for the use of a firearm during the commission of the robberies.

From April to June in 2006, Gomez and Avina embarked on a crime spree across the Coachella Valley. In each robbery, they would approach an unsuspecting victim who was usually in front of their own home. Each time, they would pull a handgun on the victim and demand money. In most cases, Gomez and Avina fled the scene with the wallets and/or other valuable property belonging to the victims.

The case, INF054992, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Deana Bohenek.

“These defendants terrorized and robbed dozens of victims during their lengthy crime spree,” said Bohenek. “These men have demonstrated a pattern of criminal behavior that makes them incapable for living free in our society.”

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