



Riverside County District Attorney

# CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

PAUL E. ZELLERBACH  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

For Immediate Release  
February 20, 2013

John Hall  
Senior Public Information Specialist  
Contact: 951.955.8662

## JURY CONVICTS MAN OF MURDERING VICTIM LURED OUT THROUGH A FAKE FACEBOOK PROFILE

RIVERSIDE – Today, Feb. 20, 2013, a Riverside County jury convicted a San Jacinto man of murdering a victim lured out through a fake Facebook profile.

Manuel Guzman was convicted of one count of murder with a special circumstance allegation of lying in wait as well as personally using a firearm. The defendant was 17 at the time of the murder so he was not eligible for the death penalty.

Because he was a juvenile at the time of the murder, Guzman faces a sentence of either life in prison without the possibility of parole or 50 years to life.

Judge Michael Donner set a sentencing date of April 26, 2013, in Dept. 62 at the Hall of Justice in Riverside.

The eight-man, four-woman jury deliberated slightly less than one full day before coming back with their verdicts.

Guzman created a fake online “profile” on the social network website Facebook using the fake persona of “Rebecca Santhiago.” (NOTE: That spelling of the last name is correct.) Guzman used photos of an east coast Internet model in that fake profile. Based on the evidence in this case, Guzman then used that fake profile in attempts to lure out young men.

On May, 30, 2011, Guzman used the fake profile to successfully lure the victim in this case, Eddie Leal, 23, of San Jacinto to meet someone the victim believed to be Rebecca Santhiago at a park in the area of Ivy Crest Drive in San Jacinto. Leal was found in the driver’s seat of a Toyota Corolla that came to rest along Roanoke Street after that vehicle hit a parked car. Leal had been shot multiple times.

The case, SWF1201043, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Daniel DeLimon of the DA’s Homicide Unit.