



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2022

JESSIE AGUILAR SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR GANG-RELATED ATTEMPTED MURDER

Jessie Aguilar, 47, was sentenced today to a term of 25 years to life for attempted murder for the benefit of the Calwa Varrios Locos Bulldogs criminal street gang. The sentence was handed down by Judge Jeffrey Hamilton of the Fresno Superior Court.

Aguilar, who is serving three life terms in the California Department of Corrections for murder, attempted murder, and assault on a correctional officer, pleaded last month to the charges stemming from a scheme in which he ordered the murder of a rival gang member using a contraband cellular telephone from inside the prison walls.

Aguilar used that contraband phone to contact co-defendant, Juan Alfredo Venegas, (40, of Fresno) and then ordered Venegas to recruit a 14-year-old gang member to help him murder a rival gang member at Calwa Park in the middle of the day. After that order, Venegas was stopped by detectives with a fully automatic pistol at Calwa Park.

Aguilar was previously convicted of murder and attempted murder in 2017, stemming from a 2014 shooting committed for the benefit of the Calwa Varrios Locos Bulldogs gang. While in jail awaiting transport to prison for those crimes, he assaulted and seriously injured a correctional officer and was sentenced to an additional life term for that crime in 2018.

Co-defendant Venegas is set to be sentenced for his role in this murder plot on March 25, 2022.

This case was investigated by detectives from the Multi-Agency Gang Enforcement Consortium and the Fresno County District Attorney's Office would like to thank the Fresno Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, Fresno Police Department, and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for their assistance in this multi-agency effort.

The media may email FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov with any questions.

[21-24418 G]