



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS NEW MEXICO MAN OF MURDER

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that late yesterday a federal jury in Midland, Texas, convicted 32 year- old Geechie Devain Templeton of Hobbs, New Mexico on charges stemming from a November 2007 murder. Templeton, was convicted of possession with intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine and of first-degree murder.

On November 9, 2007, Templeton shot and killed Gabriel Rodriquez as he was attempting to rob Rodriquez of two kilograms of cocaine. As Rodriquez sat in his truck in Odessa, Templeton shot him once in the head and then again in his body. Authorities were able to link the DNA found in the victim's car to Templeton and the murder weapon. The murder weapon was recovered a month after the slaying in Templetons mother's apartment in Odessa.

Sentencing will take place in May 2009. Templeton faces a maximum forty years in prison on the cocaine conviction and up to life in prison for the murder conviction. Federal law requires that the two sentences run consecutively.

This case was investigated by the Odessa Police Department, the Texas Rangers, the Department of Public Safety DNA Lab in Lubbock, and the United States Marshal's Service. It was prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney's John Klassen and Kerry Fleck.

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