



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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**UVALDE TEXAS MEXICAN MAFIA MEMBER
AWAITING SENTENCING ON FEDERAL RACKETEERING-BASED CHARGES
PLEADS GUILTY TO ASSAULTING CORRECTIONS OFFICER**

United States Attorney Robert Pitman announced that 23-year-old Javier "Javi" Guerrero faces up to 20 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to assaulting a guard at the GEO Correctional Facility in Val Verde County.

According to court documents, the federal inmate admitted that on October 25, 2011, he assaulted a corrections officer by striking the officer in the face with his fists and his knees. As a result, the guard suffered cuts to the nose as well as facial bruising and lacerations. At the time of the incident, the Texas Mexican Mafia member was awaiting sentencing on federal racketeering-based charges.

Guerrero appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Victor R. Garcia in Del Rio on April 24, 2012, and pleaded guilty to the assault charge. He is scheduled to be sentenced at 9:00am on September 10, 2012, before United States District Judge Alia Moses.

The assault case resulted from a joint investigation by the United States Marshals Service and investigators from the Val Verde County Sheriff's Office and officials from the GEO Correctional Facility.

In July 2011, a federal jury found Guerrero guilty of several Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organization (RICO)-based charges including one count of conspiracy to conduct the affairs of an enterprise through a pattern of racketeering and two counts of violent crimes in aid of racketeering. Those charges centered around various federal racketeering offenses committed in Uvalde, Eagle Pass, Del Rio and the surrounding area including the murder of Christopher Mendez on December 6, 2006, near Concan, Texas, and Jose Damian Garza in Hondo, Texas, on July 19, 2008. Guerrero, the last of 12 defendants convicted in this RICO conspiracy to be sentenced, faces up to life in federal prison on the RICO-based violations.

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