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MS-13 GANG MEMBER SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS FOR RACKETEERING CONSPIRACY

Participated in the Murder of Ashley Antonio Urias

Greenbelt, Maryland - U.S. District Judge Deborah K. Chasanow sentenced Everec Alvarez Chacon, also known as Moreno, age 30, of Washington, D.C., today to 20 years in prison, followed by five years of supervised release for conspiracy to conduct and participate in racketeering enterprise activities of MS-13, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein and Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division. Judge Chasanow also ordered Chacon to pay \$6,783 in restitution for funeral expenses.

"Twenty-one MS-13 gang members now have been convicted in Maryland on federal RICO charges for participating in a racketeering conspiracy, and fourteen other gang members have been convicted on other federal charges over the past two years," said U.S. Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein.

"We are making a clear impact," says ATF Special Agent in Charge Gregory K. Gant, "but we're not finished until there is no longer a threat of gang violence in our communities."

According to the plea agreement, La Mara Salvatrucha, also known as MS-13, is a gang composed primarily of immigrants or descendants of immigrants from El Salvador, with members operating throughout Prince George's County and Montgomery County, Maryland and elsewhere. MS-13 is a national and international criminal organization with approximately 10,000 members.

MS-13 is organized in "cliques," including the Sailors Locos Salvatruchos Westside ("SLSW"), the Teclas Locos Salvatruchos and the Langley Park Salvatruchos. Chacon became a member of MS-13 while he lived in the vicinity of Sonsonate, El Salvador. Chacon entered the United States illegally in December of 2000 and came to live in Washington, D.C. area. By May of 2004, Chacon was introduced to various SLSW clique members.

On May 20, 2004, Chacon and two SLSW clique members started talking with Ashley Antonio Urias in a parking lot in Suitland, Maryland, where they were all drinking beer. All four individuals decided to go to the Washington National Cemetery in Suitland, Maryland. Chacon and the SLSW members drove Chacon's vehicle to the cemetery, Urias drove his truck, and all four continued to drink beer.

The MS-13 members believed Urias to be a member of a rival gang. Later in the

evening, a fight broke out. Urias was beaten with a baseball bat and a golf club, suffering several skull fractures, with one blow essentially severing the spine from the base of his brain. Urias was dragged through the cemetery by Chacon and the other SLSW clique members, to an area of dirt and gravel, where they left his body. Urias's body was discovered by groundskeepers later on May 21, 2004. Also on May 21, 2004, Anne Arundel County police pulled over Urias's truck, which was being driven by one of the SLSW clique members with Chacon and the other SLSW member as passengers in the truck. The truck was impounded, but none of the three men were arrested.

Chacon and the two SLSW clique members were advised by MS-13 associates to leave the area, after it was discovered they had been involved in a murder. On May 23, 2004, all three men arrived in Port Washington, New York, at the home of a relative of Chacon.

On June 24, 2004, Chacon was arrested in Port Washington, New York. After Chacon initially denied membership in MS-13, or any knowledge of, or participation in, the Urias murder, he made another statement to investigators. Chacon claimed that he had been drinking heavily for three days and that he was inside his car when an argument broke out between Urias and the SLSW clique members. Chacon stated that one of the SLSW clique members and Urias began hitting each other with bats, but that he did not participate in the fight. Chacon acknowledged dragging Urias out of the cemetery roadway, but claimed Urias was still alive at the time. In fact, Urias could not have survived the most serious blow to his spine (from the golf club) for more than a few seconds and died prior to his body being dragged to the area where it was later discovered.

While Chacon was detained for the murder of Urias in Prince George's County, he directed that a postcard be written to threaten and persuade the SLSW clique members not to cooperate with authorities. The postcard was sent on February 24, 2005.

To date, this office has charged 49 gang members with federal offenses, with 30 defendants charged in this RICO conspiracy case. Twenty-one MS-13 gang members have been convicted thus far of RICO conspiracy charges.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein praised the RAGE Task Force, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Prince George's County Police Department; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; the Montgomery County Department of Police; the Howard County Police Department; the Maryland National Capital Park Police; and the Maryland State Police.

Mr. Rosenstein thanked the Prince George's County State's Attorney Glenn F. Ivey and Montgomery County State's Attorney John McCarthy for the assistance that they and their offices provided.

Mr. Rosenstein commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys James Trusty and Chan Park, and Trial Attorney David Jaffe, a prosecutor for the Justice Department's Gang Squad, who prosecuted the case.

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