



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONVICTED GANG MURDERER JESSIE AGUILAR CHARGED WITH BATTERY UPON A FRESNO COUNTY JAIL CORRECTIONAL OFFICER

Jessie Aguilar (43, of Fresno) has been charged in a Felony Complaint with Battery upon a Fresno County Jail Correctional Officer, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office has announced.

On September 18, 2017, Mr. Aguilar was convicted by a Fresno County jury of the First Degree Murder of Fernando Rivera Zapata and the Attempted Murder of Fernando Zapata Jr. The jury also found that the defendant used a firearm in the commission of those crimes, and that the crimes were committed for the benefit of a criminal street gang. Mr. Aguilar is scheduled to be sentenced for those crimes on November 30, 2017.

On September 22, 2017, while housed in the Fresno County Jail awaiting sentencing, Mr. Aguilar allegedly attacked a Fresno County Sheriff's Office's Correctional Officer.

As a result of that attack, Mr. Aguilar has been charged with a felony violation of Battery Upon a Custodial Officer [Penal Code § 243.1.] The Felony Complaint also alleges that the defendant has previously been convicted of four (4) serious or violent "Strike" Offenses, and has previously been sentenced to State Prison on three (3) prior occasions.

If convicted of the charges, Mr. Aguilar faces a sentence of up 25 years to life in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. However, upon reaching age 60 and after serving 25 years, Mr. Aguilar will be eligible for release under the Elderly Parole Program.

During the pendency of his Murder trial, Mr. Aguilar is also alleged to have been found in possession of a weapon in the Fresno County Jail on July 12th of this year. A Felony Complaint was filed alleging a violation of Custodial Possession of a Weapon [Penal Code § 4502(a)]. That case is currently pending adjudication.

Mr. Aguilar remains in custody at the Fresno County Jail. He is scheduled to be arraigned in Department 31 of the Fresno County Superior Court on Wednesday, September 27, 2017, at 8:30 a.m.

The Media may email FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us or contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions.

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