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ELGIN MAN GETS 10-YEAR SENTENCE FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR RENEGING ON AGREEMENT, REFUSING TO TESTIFY AT MURDER TRIAL

June 28, 2012

An Elgin man has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for refusing to testify in a murder trial.

Raul Perez-Gonzalez, 21 (d.o.b. 10-22-1990), of the 900 block of Jefferson Avenue, Elgin, was sentenced today by Associate Judge James C. Hallock to 10 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for criminal contempt of court.

On Aug. 30, 2010, Perez-Gonzalez agreed with the Kane County State's Attorney to a sentence of 35 years in prison in exchange for a guilty plea to one count of first-degree murder for his role in the 2009 murder of 22-year-old Paola Rodriguez, of Rochelle. As part of the plea arrangement, Perez-Gonzalez had agreed to testify in the murder trial of co-defendant Tony Rosalez, 21 (d.o.b. 8-7-1990), of the 400 block of Sherman Avenue, Elgin, that Rosalez had fired the handgun that killed Rodriguez. In exchange for his testimony, the 35-year sentence was to be reduced to 20 years in prison.

However, on Oct. 28, 2011, Perez-Gonzalez reneged on his part of the agreement and was held in contempt of court.

The original 35-year term of Perez-Gonzalez's plea was reinstated.

Rosalez was convicted Feb. 29, 2012, by a Kane County jury, of one count of first-degree murder, and sentenced April 18, 2012, to 35 years in prison.

Perez-Gonzalez is eligible for day-for-day credit on the 10-year term, which is to be served consecutive to the 35-year murder sentence.

Paola Rodriguez was killed Jan. 30, 2009. Just before 10 p.m., Rosalez was a passenger in a Ford Expedition driven by co-defendant Perez-Gonzalez. Three others were in the vehicle. The men had stopped at a convenience store in the 500 block of Bluff City Boulevard to purchase beer. Across the street was a group of men from a rival street gang, in a Dodge Durango, along with the Rodriguez and her friend, who were in a Pontiac Grand Prix. The men in Rosalez's group drove across the street and

flashed gang signs with their hands at the rivals. The rivals flashed gang signs back, which angered the Rosalez group. A car chase ensued, with the men in the Durango and the two women in the Grand Prix being chased by the Expedition west on Bluff City Boulevard and then north onto Raymond Street. Rosalez fired a single shot that struck the Grand Prix driver, Rodriguez, and killed her.