

## Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



**JOSEPH H. McMAHON**

State's Attorney

Kane County Judicial Center  
37W777 Route 38 Suite 300  
St. Charles, Illinois 60175

General Offices: (630) 232-3500  
Contact:  
Christopher Nelson (630) 232-3500

### **ELGIN GANG MEMBER GUILTY IN 2009 MURDER OF YOUNG MOTHER TONY ROSALEZ FACES UP TO 60 YEARS IN PRISON; TWO OTHERS HAD PLEADED GUILTY**

March 1, 2012

An Elgin man has been convicted of murder in a 2009 gang-motivated shooting that resulted in the death of a young mother.

Tony Rosalez, 21 (d.o.b. 8-7-1990), of the 400 block of Sherman Avenue, Elgin, was convicted late Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012, by a Kane County jury of one count of first-degree murder.

Just before 10 p.m. Jan. 30, 2009, Rosalez was a passenger in a Ford Expedition driven by co-defendant Raul Perez-Gonzalez, 21 (d.o.b. 10-22-1990), of the 900 block of Jefferson Avenue, 60120. Co-defendant Manith A. Vilayhong, 25 (d.o.b. 5-8-1986), of the 400 block of Prospect Street, Elgin, was in the back seat, along with two men who were not charged.

The men, many of whom were street gang members, 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 victim, 22-year-old Paola Rodriguez, of Rochelle, and her friend, who were in a Pontiac Grand Prix. The five 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 rival gang members 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. Vilayhong, believing that the rival gang members were in the Grand Prix, ordered Rosalez to shoot a handgun. Rosalez fired a single shot that struck the Grand Prix driver, Rodriguez, and killed her.

On Oct. 15, 2010, Vilayhong agreed with the Kane County State's Attorney to a prison sentence of 20 years in exchange for a guilty plea to one count of first-degree murder and trial testimony against Rosalez. On Aug. 30, 2010, Perez-Gonzalez agreed with the Kane County State's Attorney to a prison sentence of 20 years in exchange for a guilty plea to one count of first-degree murder and trial testimony against Rosalez. Both pleas were accepted by Associate Judge T. Jordan Gallagher.

Circuit Judge David R. Akemann set Rosalez's next court appearance for 1:30 p.m. April 18, 2012, in Courtroom 305, for post-trial motions and sentencing. Rosalez faces a sentence of between 20 and 60 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Rosalez remains in custody at the Kane County jail, where he has been held since his arrest in lieu of \$200,000 bail. Bond was revoked upon conviction.

"It is our hope that this verdict can provide some sense of peace and justice to the family of Paola Rodriguez, in particular to her young son, who was an infant when his mother was senselessly murdered," Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said. "Unfortunately, this is another tragic example of the evils of street gangs and their members.

"This verdict removes another bully from our community, however, it is at the expense of an innocent young child who must grow up without his mother. It remains a mission of this office to appropriately and aggressively prosecute street gang members who terrorize our community in the name of false bravado.

"Our thanks to the jury for its service to the community, to the Elgin Police Department for its hard work in investigating this case, and to Kane County Assistant State's Attorneys Greg Sams and Robby Anderson, who successfully prosecuted this case."